



When it comes
to autism

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Potawatomi Leadership
Program accepting
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Shane Jett speaks
at the U.N.

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HOWNIKAN

Zisbaktokegises / April 2015

People of the Fire

American Red Cross and Citizen Potawatomi Nation partnering to provide storm shelters

In May 2013, a series of deadly tornadoes ripped through parts of Oklahoma leaving behind paths of destruction in their wake. The Citizen Potawatomi Nation jurisdictional area was hit hard. Many Tribal members and CPN employees suffered great destruction and loss.

Steelman Estates, a trailer park lying inside the Tribal jurisdiction approximately one mile south of the Grand Casino Hotel Resort took a direct hit, with numerous injuries and two deaths from one tornado. Other areas like Pink and Little Axe, home to Tribal members and employees alike also suffered damage from the twisters.

Tribal first responders were in many cases some of the few rescuers on the ground in the immediate aftermath of the destruction, an experience that led the Citizen Potawatomi Nation to explore mitigation plans in the event of the next disaster.

As a result, the CPN partnered with the American Red Cross and will accept applications for a limited number of residential storm shelters for



American Red Cross

individuals residing in Oklahoma, Cleveland or Pottawatomie counties.

The Tribe is able to fund the shelters and their installation through a partnership with the American Red Cross. The residential storm shelters are available for Tribal members and CPN employees.

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation will accept applications for an individual storm shelter installation program. For those selected and approved, the program will provide a one-time FEMA approved shelter installation assistance of up to \$2,500.

The population for this program is specific to Tribal members and CPN employees, with preference given to Tribal members. Once Potawatomi application requests are exhausted, and funding allows, CPN employees will be assisted. Selection criteria

have been established to help individuals directly in the storm's path and those who suffered catastrophic loss first. A special focus will be given to residents in Cleveland, Pottawatomie and Oklahoma counties.

To be eligible, residents must own and reside in the home where shelter is to be installed. The house must be the primary residence of the homeowner. Proof of ownership will be required.

For more information and a complete application package, please contact CPN Assistant Director of Economic Development Kelley Francen at 405-275-3121. Applications will be accepted through April 30, 2015. Funds are limited and will be disbursed as applications are received and approved.

Cultural Heritage Center's Jeremy Arnette plays vital role in Tribe's history

Citizen Potawatomi Nation is the most treated Tribe in the United States, having more than 40 signed with the U.S. government as well as two each with Great Britain and France. This facet of history is also notable for the fact that all 40 of those signed by American officials and ratified by Congress were subsequently broken, often resulting in a loss of land and liberty for the ancestors of today's Citizen Potawatomi Nation. Those losses led to forced removals like the Trail of Death, or the ultimate migration of the Tribe from Kan. to Okla. in the 1870s. In the aftermath of those events, including the Tribe's long presence in present-day Pottawatomie County, sites and artifacts integral in the lives of Potawatomi then and now remain. In an effort to protect these precious items and locations, through the use of grant funding the CPN's Tribal Historic Preservation Office has spent the last several years surveying, advising and protecting these vestiges of the Potawatomi past.

Assistant Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Jeremy Arnette, who also serves as grant coordinator for cultural resources at the CHC, sat down with the *Hownikan* to give us insight into his work with this Tribal department.

Where are you from?

"I was born in Tishomingo, Okla., but grew up around Colbert, which is just south of Durant."

What is your academic background?

"I graduated from Colbert High School in 2003, before going on to college at Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant, where I received my bachelor's in history. After graduating in 2007, I started a master's program in history at Oklahoma State University, which I completed in 2010."

(Continued page 4)



April 2015 marks two years since the release of *Wadasé*, or "Brave Breakthrough." She is the first American Bald Eagle released by a Native American aviary fitted with GPS tracker. This is her story...

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Get your regalia ready for Festival



Trying to adhere to the Family Reunion Festival standards for the powwow may seem daunting, but the Cultural Heritage Center and FireLake Gift Shop can provide supplies and inspiration for any regalia needs.

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A portrait of Potawatomi history

Within the Cultural Heritage Center’s photographic collection is a rare 4x5” glass plate negative of Father Dom Bede (Albert Negahnquet), the first full-blood American Indian (Citizen Potawatomi) ordained Roman Catholic priest in the United States, on horseback (left) at Sacred Heart Mission, the origin and epicenter of the Catholic Church in Indian and Oklahoma Territories.



Fr. Dom Bede (Albert Negahnquet) on horseback at Sacred Heart Mission. ca. 1908.

Oral stories illustrate Albert’s initial interest in the clergy, “he wanted to educate the Potawatomi people in the teachings of the Bible in their own language.” Understanding his son’s path, Albert’s father Nebawquaw (Twilight on the Forest) or Stephen Negahnquet enrolled him at Sacred Heart Mission, known then as “the Cradle of Catholicism in the West,” at the age of thirteen. Upon the completion of his education and ordainment, Fr. Dom Bede became a fixture at local missions. His innate skills to lead and teach no doubt stemmed from his ancestor of the same name, Negahnquet (Lead Cloud), who was a prominent Great Lakes headman, warrior and orator of the Potawatomi Nation.



Albert Negahnquet [age 13]; student at Sacred Heart Mission. 1887.



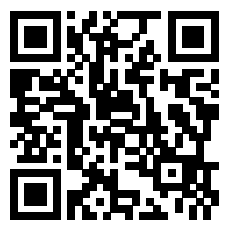
Wabaunsee by Charles Bird King. 1835.

Wabaunsee, born Naksas, was a powerful and influential headman among the Potawatomi, Odawa and Ojibwe villages of Illinois and Indiana. With a reputation that preceded him, Wabaunsee was not only a noted veteran of the Osage Wars, Battle of Tippecanoe and War of 1812, but an esteemed religious leader within the ancient Midewewin Medicine Lodge. Openly opposed to American expansion, yet understanding the need to delegate for peace and the survival of his people, his name can be found among the treaties penned between the United States and Potawatomi Nation. Resulting from the Treaty of Chicago of 1833, Wabaunsee steered removal negotiations for the United Band of Chippewa, Ottawa and Potawatomi, and led the villages of Illinois and Wisconsin to a new reservation in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

During an 1845 trip to Washington D.C., Wabaunsee accounted how he earned his name. Avenging a wound he received while attacking a provi-

sion boat on the White River, Ind., Naksas, as he was then known, along with a small group of warriors began raiding small settlements, seeking retribution. One evening while the group was stealing horses, Naksas was confronted by the owner. Seizing the man and killing him before he could make a noise, Naksas proclaimed to his warriors, “The people will know me and always call me Wabaunsee, signifying the dawn of day or causer of paleness. When I kill an enemy he turns pale, resembling the first light of the day.”

Check out the CHC Facebook page for more Potawatomi history!



Regalia ideas available at Cultural Heritage Center

During the Family Reunion Festival, Powwow Arena Director Coby Lehman instructs participants on proper etiquette and what is acceptable to wear inside the arena. Lehman often passes out pamphlets that thoroughly explain proper powwow attire. While trying to adhere to these standards may seem daunting, the Cultural Heritage Center and FireLake Gift Shop can provide supplies and inspiration for any regalia needs. The CHC holds regalia classes each Tuesday from 4-7 p.m.



A few hours work transforms cloth to a moccasin.



Fringes compliment, but are not necessary, for a completed shawl.

“The powwow arena is sacred, that is what many people forget,” explained Lehman. “To Native Americans, it is as sacred as a church. That is why you dress respectfully, don’t play while there are ceremonies and pets aren’t allowed. It’s always good to think how one would dress or act in their Sunday church service, because that is how they should approach the powwow arena.”

For women without regalia, the primary piece to acquire is a shawl. The shawl’s role is to conceal the arms while entering the arena. The gift shop has many shawl options for sale, and it is important for this to be a foundational piece of a color scheme for the full regalia. Shawls without fringes can be made in a day during one of the many arts and crafts classes that take place at the CPN Cultural Heritage Center.

For women, another place to start is a simple dress without any appliqué. Just as with shawls, these can be made in just one session of a regalia class. Traditionally, Potawatomi women dressed in a separate blouse and skirt for special occasions like powwows.

“We encourage people to bring their own fabric so they can specifically choose what colors they want to have,” said Dr. Kelli Mosteller, director of the CHC. “The classes have enough sewing machines to be used throughout the weekend.”

Moccasins are another regalia item that can be made in a class session. “You should be able to make a pair of moccasins in four hours,” said Dr. Mosteller. “All of the materials are provided and usually cost around \$45.”

Covering of feet is vitally important when entering the powwow, with open-toed shoes and sandals being disrespectful of the sacred area that is the arena.

Though regalia in the powwow arena is important for cultural and historical reasons, it does not mean that fashion is completely disregarded. FireLake Gifts also has an abundance of jew-

elry and accessories. Tribal members are encouraged to create their own during one of the CHC’s classes.

Said Dr. Mosteller, “Are earrings completely necessary for woman’s regalia? No. Do we not feel like our outfits are complete without them? Yes.”

For men, bandoliers, which is a long beaded hair pipe wrapping around the shoulder to the waist, can easily be made during one class session as well. They can be made standard or unique to match the color of someone’s regalia. All of the supplies to make bandoliers are readily available

at the gift shop.

Ribbon shirts are also another feature of men’s regalia, and are especially helpful during the hot summer months. Like all forms of regalia, a bit of patience and effort is all that it takes to create something that is important to you. Creating a unique and personal ribbon shirt does not have to be a complicated affair.

If someone owns a collared short or long sleeve button up, it can be made into a ribbon shirt.

“Simply sewing ribbon to a shirt can be done in an hour,” explained Dr. Mosteller. “Using the sewing machines and other supplies we have available at the CHC and FireLake Gift Shop, a unique shirt or dress can be created in one day.”

For the younger ones, expectations are the same as for adults. When in the powwow arena, proper attire is required. Allowing kids to create their own regalia during the classes offered before and during Festival is twofold. First it allows them to have personal input on what they’ll wear; a vital point when creating regalia. Secondly, the classes are a great activity to beat the heat during those long, hot Oklahoma June days.

“We want everyone to participate during Family Reunion Festival,” said Dr. Mosteller. “We offer all of these classes and options to Tribal members and guests so we can keep the traditional ways of our ancestors. If you’re going to enter the arena, you need to wear regalia.”

If you would like to learn more about proper powwow etiquette, please visit the [CPN Hownikan YouTube](#) page or take part in the weekly regalia classes at the CHC. For more information please visit <https://giftshop.potawatomi.org> or call 405-878-5830.



Ribbon shirts, like these worn by Brad and Bryce Peltier, are dress appropriate and climate friendly.



REGALIA MAKING CLASSES
Every Tuesday from 4 - 7pm at the Cultural Heritage Center.

Learn to make your own shawls, ribbon shirts, blouses, skirts, appliqué, and much more! Everyone is invited!

Sewing machines are provided. Participants will need to bring their own fabric.



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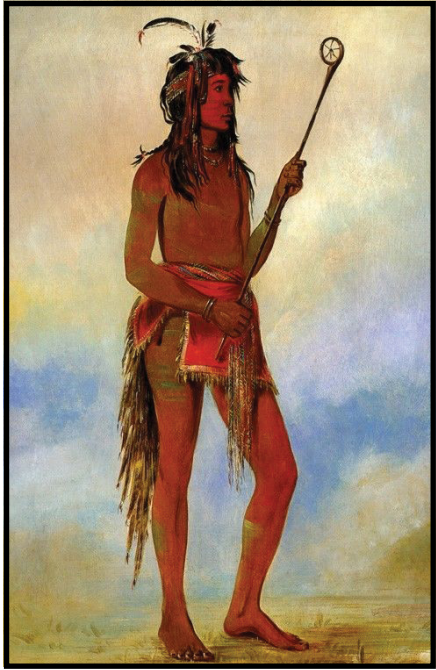
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Traditional Potawatomi gambling and sport showcased at Grand Casino and Resort

The first known six-sided dice dates from 3,000 BC Mesopotamia in what is now northern Iraq. The first horse race in America took place in the year 1668. Gambling and sport have been a part of the human identity for as long as humans have existed, a practice that continues today online, in casinos and in the lottery ticket.

For the Potawatomi, games of chance and competition are part of the Tribe’s long history. To educate people on this history, CPN Cultural Heritage Center Director Dr. Kelli Mosteller is curating a semi-permanent exhibit at the Grand Casino to showcase this facet of the Tribe’s past and present.

“Gambling in Potawatomi culture has been going a lot longer than most would think,” said Dr. Mosteller. “This is a teachable moment. If someone is staying in the hotel they might



Great Lakes Stickball Player by George Catlin, 1835 (Smithsonian American Art Museum).

(Arnette, continued)

How did you end up at CPN?

“During my time at OSU, I had an internship at the National Cowboy Hall of Fame and Western Heritage Museum. My supervisor there was Karen Whitecotton, who would later go on to be the director of the CPN Cultural Heritage Center.

“In late 2009, the Nation had an opening for an entry-level museum assistant with an understanding of collections care concepts. Karen thought I would be interested and gave me the position details. After two grilling interviews, I was hired.”

What does a Tribal Historic Preservation Officer do?

“The THPO office has two primary responsibilities. The first is to research and answer requests from government agencies who are considering a project with federal dollars on Tribal lands or in a Tribally significant area.

“When an agency makes a request, our office is tasked with researching the history of the land in question and determining if the proposed project will have any adverse effect on his-



Potawatomi playing moccasin by George Winter, ca. 1837.

wander into the casino and learn something new by having this here.”

Games of skill, such as stickball, shinny and snow snake are all part of the exhibit.

“The Potawatomi used stickball more as a social game within the community,” said Dr. Mosteller. “Other tribes used stickball to resolve conflicts.”

Stickball has been around since before the 1600s. The game is quite similar to modern day lacrosse and is a regular activity of participants in the Potawatomi Leadership Program and FireLodge Tribal Youth. The game is played on a 100 yard field. At each end there are tall cylindrical poles used for goals. To score, a player must hit the pole with the ball.

Shinny is similar to field hockey and is usually played by women, while snow snake is a skill game that is played when it’s snowy and icy, which was very common when the Tribe lived in its original homelands near the Great Lakes.

“In shinny, you make a long chute with the ice and then throw a long, carved stick down it in order to see who can get their stick to travel the furthest,” explained Dr. Mosteller.

Games of chance, such as moccasin game and the bowl and dice game are also part of the exhibit. In the case games of skill will be displayed on the left and games of chance will be displayed on the right. The separation of the two different styles will give each viewer a sense of what all was played long ago by the Potawatomi.

Between each display, videos describe each game and play examples on screen to give visitors a visual of what each looks like.

CHC curator and archivist Blake Norton developed the replica pieces used in the display as well as the graphics for the videos. Each replica and example requires Norton and his staff to hand make the pieces in the showcase.

The exhibit will be used as an educational piece which shows the Potawatomi’s ties to gambling began long before the first shovel ever broke ground on an Oklahoma casino.

“This will help showcase that these Native American casinos are run by a Tribe that has a distinct culture,” added Dr. Mosteller.

The exhibit will be semi-permanent, with only minor changes made over the course of its time on display and should be completed by April.

“The exhibit is to remind people that the Grand is a Native American casino owned by Native Americans,” said Dr. Mosteller. “We want to incorporate the Potawatomi culture any way we can.”

For information about the display or to learn more about the Tribe’s history and cultural practices, please contact the Cultural Heritage Center at 405-878-5830 or visit their website at <http://www.potawatomiheritage.org>.



Jeremy Arnette.

toric properties in the area.

“The second role we serve is surveying historic properties on Tribal lands. Throughout the year, CHC Director Dr. Kelli Mosteller and myself, along with CPN Real Estate Manager David Bourbonnais, go out to Tribal properties and look for any existing structures or foundations based on our prior research.

“Knowing where historic properties or their remnants are located helps us piece together more of the CPN story

and gives us more complete data to work with during the process.”

Why did you decide to go into this sort of a career?

“I grew into it over the years. I initially started out working only with the object collection at the cultural heritage center and then progressed into also working on Tribal Heritage Protection Office projects due to some of my coursework at OSU dealing with historic preservation.

“Later, I started handling more of the THPO work alongside the grant application and reporting process, until I was working on it almost full time. Now, my time is split between THPO work and writing and managing grants for the cultural heritage center.”

Why is your work important in the grand scheme of things? How do you explain the relevance of it to the average Tribal member?

“The work of our historic preservation office is important because it allows the Nation to protect our cultural resources on trust property rather than relying on the state to have our best interests at heart. Without our THPO office, the safety of these places would be dependent on volunteers to watch for damage and disturbance.

“The grant-funded THPO office can not only monitor these known locations, but also research their importance and possibly uncover new sites along the way. Active practice of historic preservation helps keep these pieces of our past from disappearing before we have the opportunity to learn about how they are important to the history and culture of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation.”

FireLake Entertainment Center’s Mary Hunt keeps gaming fair

Even in a highly regulated sector such as gaming, there are always individuals seeking to take advantage of the system. Popular culture has even made heroes out of the practice with films like “Casino” and “Ocean’s Eleven.”

Less celebrated in Hollywood portrayals though are those behind the scenes of gaming enterprises tasked with staying one step ahead of criminal activity. At FireLake Entertainment Center, that individual is operational compliance manager Mary Hunt.

Getting her start in the gaming scene in 1991, Hunt enrolled at a dealing school in Las Vegas, where she learned all of the games that casinos typically offer like blackjack, roulette and poker.

Following her graduation, Hunt worked her way up the ladder and eventually became licensed vocational instructor with the Nevada Department of Education. For several years she alternated between teaching and working as a dealer at the city’s casinos.

“I was responsible for developing training procedures and learning ma-

terial for students,” said Hunt. “One day I was asked to move by the company I was working for to switch to Tribal gaming in Wisconsin. My husband and I took the opportunity and moved out there to do more training.”

From Wisconsin, Hunt and her husband moved to Mississippi, Iowa and Louisiana and worked with state officials to develop new regulations and procedures for each casino for which she worked.

When gaming began in Oklahoma in 2003, they pulled up stakes again, and moved to Shawnee to be closer to her husband’s family.

With her seasoned background in gaming, she was hired at FireLake Entertainment Center to oversee its regulations, policies and procedures. Using her decades of experience to stay on top of the ever-changing regulatory nature of gaming, Hunt is responsible for FireLake’s adherence to federal, state and Tribal gaming regulations.

“On a day to day basis I make sure the policies and procedures we’ve developed over time to work on the floor as well as making sure the compliance is there without crippling



Mary Hunt.

operations,” explained Hunt. The Shawnee resident has been in gaming for 30 years and credits managers Linda Canada and Mike Petray for building a terrific place to work.

“I remember we all sat down and said this is what we need to do and how can we get it done,” recalled Hunt. “So we worked through every department throughout the whole casino developing regulations and procedures to make this place run effectively.”

As Hunt explains, the rigors of a

position as a casino’s operational manager is a type of career where someone has to adapt, move on or quit.

“The whole time I’ve been here it has been a lot of fun and a learning experience,” said Hunt. “I came here with some knowledge but I have learned a tremendous amount too. I’ve worked at a lot of different casinos and this is best the place I’ve ever been employed. Linda (Canada) is the best boss I’ve ever had. The Tribe has been great to me and shows that if you put in the work, you get recognized.”

FireLake Bowling Center adds arcade and new snack bar

Late winter storms couldn’t have come at a better time for FireLake Bowling Center, as families attempting to get out of the house and stay out of the cold found a revitalized FireLake Bowling Center offering the latest in digital entertainment. The facility recently expanded its family-friendly entertainment offerings to include new arcade games, sports simulators and a snack bar.

“Our upgraded arcade has more than 25 games,” explained FireLake Bowling Center Director Chris Skillings. “Anything from normal video games, a sports simulator to prize games like those at state and county fairs, we have all kinds.”

Two of the major upgrades, Laser Frenzy and the Visual Sports Simulator, are as popular with adults as they are with the kids. The laser maze sets obstacle courses made of dozens of laser lights inside a small chamber. When a participant comes into contact with the beam, they lose points.

The sports simulator has found a following amongst the kids and adults as well. FireLake Golf Course staff members have been amongst its most active users during rain and snow days. In addition to golf, the sports simulator also has games like football kick, rugby and hockey. Zombie dodgeball, which is exactly what it sounds like, is becoming a favorite for FireLake regulars too.

“It’s a family oriented arcade, and that means parents and kids can enjoy it,” Skillings added. “You come in on a daily basis and can see the various ages, from four to fifty, have a good

time there. Everyone can come in and enjoy something.”

The bowling center has also resumed food service in the area that once housed San Remo’s Pizzeria, this time with the FireLake Bowling Center Snack Bar. Burgers, fries and sandwiches are the snack bar’s staples, including the Texas-sized chicken fried steak sandwich.

It’s not all video games and food at FireLake though, as the bowling center prepares for its busy spring and summer schedule when it will host a number of professional and charity tournaments.

March 22 kicks off the professional events, with the qualifying tournament for the PBA FireLake Grand Casino Resort Southwest Open. Just a few weeks after, on April 11-12, FireLake hosts the PBA FireLake Grand Casino Hotel Resort South-

west Open. The night before the big event, FireLake hosts its annual pro-am fundraiser for Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Pottawatomie County.

“It’s an awesome event,” said Skillings. “These PBA guys are professionals and it is a massive draw to have teams from Shawnee and the surrounding areas pair up with them to make some money for a worthy charity like Big Brothers, Big Sisters.”

This is just a prelude to the summer’s showcase with the May 9-17 Oklahoma Grand Casino Hotel and Resort PBA Summer Swing, a two week long pro-am event with final rounds



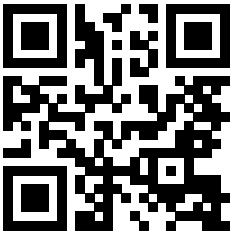
Carnival games like Down the Clown also feature.

broadcast on CBS Sports Network.

“It will be a busy summer for us, both with our normal bowling-related events and with our upgraded arcade,” said Skillings. “For us it is a great opportunity to bring professional sports to Shawnee, something which we’re proud of at FireLake.”

FireLake Bowling Center is open 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday through Thursdays, and 10 a.m. to midnight on Friday and Saturdays. Find out about our current events at <https://www.facebook.com/firelakebowling>.

See the video of the arcade updates:



The new Laser Frenzy game.

CPN’s Richard Kunze named Agribusinessman of the Year

In February 2015, CPN Director of Public Works Richard Kunze was named the Greater Shawnee Chamber of Commerce’s Agribusiness Person of the Year. It was recognition a long time in coming, especially considering a portion of his nomination stemmed from a somewhat contentious vote on a county sales tax in the 1990s.

Kunze is a familiar face throughout Pottawatomie County, Okla. He was born and still lives on the family ranch in the northwestern portions of the county, so he was familiar with the issues facing residents and businesses alike in rural areas outside of major towns like Shawnee and Tecumseh.

In 1995, Kunze traveled throughout the county to speak in favor of a one cent county sales tax, which eventually became permanent, and has kept the county’s finances above water for nearly two decades.

It wasn’t an easy assignment, especially considering two prior attempts at raising the tax failed. Kunze, who was not affiliated with the county government, volunteered to speak on behalf of the increase to skeptical residents.

“I wasn’t elected and I wasn’t a lawyer,” said Kunze. “And I could verbalize the issues in a way to people like me, business owners and county residents, could understand.”

Compared to their ability to collect revenue, which largely rely on ad valorem, or property taxes, Oklahoma county governments face a daunting task in providing the full services they are charged with. Kunze, like many county residents, saw the need for the increase and spoke at every town hall and civic group that would have him.

“It was the right thing to do,” ex-

plained Kunze. “The county governments are grossly underfunded. Everybody thinks all county commissioners are responsible for is roads and bridges, but the truth is they provide all sorts of services.”

His efforts paid off, as county sales tax revenues today are divided up between county 911 services, fire departments, the exposition center and county jail. A significant portion of the tax revenue goes towards road and bridge repair funds, which was not always the case prior to the tax’s approval by Pottawatomie County voters.

His nomination by the chamber of commerce also centered on his recent work for CPN.

His successful sales tax campaign brought him to the attention of Tribal Chairman John Barrett, who was exploring a CPN-bid to help rescue the money losing Pottawatomie County Rural Water District 3. Kunze’s grasp of the issues facing county residents with subpar or non-existent water services resulted in him being named CPN Director of Public Works, which oversees the rural water district.

“I’m proud of the nomination for the county sales tax and my work for overseeing Rural Water District 3,” said Kunze. “The approximately four to five million in infrastructure improvements that the Tribe has already spent to expand the water district’s distribution system takes water to a people who either didn’t

have enough or didn’t have any good water to drink. Communities and schools in Wanette, Asher and Dale have benefited from the Tribe’s funding of RWD3 and it shows with the growth of paying customers from 550 to almost 1,000 today.”

Kunze’s activism for improving services to rural Pottawatomie County residents was instilled at a young age. He credits his father, a rancher and dairy farmer, with cultivating an interest in the wider community, while his mother, a school teacher, trained him to be well spoken. The fact that both lessons stuck with Kunze have undoubtedly been to the benefit of the county’s residents. He is equally effusive of his two sons, whose participation in the Future Farmers of America program, including their American Degrees in FFA, resulted in his own return to tending a small

cow herd as his father had.

“It’s important that I work as hard as I can because I’m inspired on a daily basis by my wife of almost 40 years as she battles cancer, a struggle that has continued for more than 21 years.”

The longtime rancher and former food distribution business owner was grateful for the nomination, and explained the significance of receiving it.

“The basis of this county is agriculture,” he concluded.” The people here benefit from the fact that so much of the area is agriculture based, and sometimes they may need to be reminded of how important it truly is. I’m a big fan of that bumper sticker that says ‘If you eat, you’re involved in agriculture.’ We’re all tied into it, and it’s just great to be recognized.”



Richard Kunze accepts his award at the Greater Shawnee Chamber of Commerce banquet. - Photo courtesy of The Countywide and Sun.

Focus on “Sexual Assault Awareness Month” this April

Each April, Sexual Assault Awareness Month aims to raise public awareness about sexual assault and provide education on how to prevent it.

“According to RAINN statistics, every 107 seconds another American is sexually assaulted. Nearly one in four women may experience sexual violence by an intimate partner in their lifetime,” said CPN Domestic Violence Prevention Coordinator, Amanda Chapman. “One in four girls and one in six boys are sexually assaulted by the age of 18 and eight of ten rape cases, the victim knew the perpetrator.”

While someone cannot completely protect themselves from sexual assault there are things one can do to reduce the risk of being assaulted. They may include:

- When going to a social gathering, go with a group of friends.
- Trust your instincts and be aware of your surroundings.



Help is available at the House of Hope 405-275-3176 or the National Sexual Assault Hotline at 800-656-HOPE.

- Don’t leave your drink unattended.
- Don’t accept drinks from unknown people.
- Watch out for friends and vice versa.
- Try to avoid isolated areas.
- Try not to load yourself down with

- packages or bags.
- Avoid putting music headphones in both ears if walking alone.
- Make sure to have a cell phone.
- Think of an escape route.
- Have a code word with friends or family if on the phone and you are in an uncomfortable situation.

If one finds themselves a victim, Chapman suggests contacting a local law enforcement agency or the national sexual assault hotline at 800-656-HOPE. It is also important victims seek medical attention and write down all the details from the attack.

“I think that sexual assault awareness month is a great way of raising the profile of sexual assault issues and educating the public,” said Chapman. “But I think that everyone should continue working to eliminate sexual assault throughout the year.”

Each of us can take action by lifting up survivors we know and breaking the silence surrounding rape and sexual assault.

“You have the power to make a difference,” added Chapman.

For more information, please contact House of Hope at 405-275-3176 or the National Sexual Assault Hotline at 800-656-HOPE.

When it comes to autism, prompt diagnosis and early intervention is crucial

By Dr. Fausat Adediji

Autism, or Autistic Spectrum Disorder, is a disorder that affects brain development, manifesting as problems with behavior, communication and social interaction. As indicated in the name, ASD represents a wide spectrum of disability from very mild behavior problems that can easily be missed to profound developmental disability. There is usually no effect on the development of motor skills such as sitting, crawling and walking, so that at first it is not so obvious that there is a problem. That is why it is so important that awareness about autism is increased so that all of us, from parents and relatives to child care providers and health care personnel, are more vigilant.

ASD affects an estimated 1 out of every 68 children according to the report, “Prevalence of Autism Spectrum Disorder among Children Aged 8 Years – Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring Network, 11 Sites, United States, 2010,” which was published on March 27, 2014 in the CDC’s Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report. This represents a 30 percent increase from previous estimates reported in 2012 of 1 in 88 children being identified with ASD. Reasons for the increased number of children affected by ASD are unclear. What is clear though is that we are identifying more of these children as awareness increases.

The actual cause of ASD is still relatively poorly understood. Many potential factors have been proposed which seem to contribute to the development of ASD. However, different combinations of these factors are found in different individuals with ASD. It is clear however, that there is a genetic predisposition to ASD. If a family already has a child diagnosed with an ASD, the chances that siblings might also have some form of ASD are at least 5 to 10 times higher than in the general population. Environmental factors are likely to play a secondary role in some children with ASD, but what these agents are and when they

affect development is not yet known. There has been a great deal of attention in the media around vaccines as a cause of autism. Current scientific evidence does not support a link between the measles-mumps-rubella, or MMR vaccine, or any combination of vaccines and autism spectrum disorders.

Being Developmental Disorders, ASD symptoms are somewhat modifiable with early intervention. This is why it is so important that these children are identified early while the brain is still “plastic” and these behaviors are still amenable to intervention. The prognosis can be greatly improved with early and intensive treatment. Therefore, early identification is critical. We all need to know the signs.

Common behavioral features of ASD may show up as early as infancy. Infants with ASD can show little interest in being held and may not be comforted by physical closeness with their parents. They have significant limitations in social smiling, eye contact, vocalization and social play.

During the first half of the second year of life, more specific signs can be identified. They may show differences in social interaction compared with the normally developing child. For instance, the child may fail to keep eye contact or make very little eye contact and may not respond to a parent’s smile or other facial expressions. There may be deficits in “joint attention.” For example the child may not be able to follow a caregiver’s gaze or look at what someone is pointing at, does not point to objects or events to get a parent to look at them. Nor would he or she bring objects of personal interest to show to a parent. He or she may not have appropriate facial expressions, be unable to perceive what others might be thinking or feeling by looking at their facial expressions and may not show concern or empathy for others. He may be unable to make friends or be uninterested in making friends. The child may seem to be in their own world, not noticing when parents and siblings enter or leave the room.



Current scientific evidence does not support a link between any vaccines and autism.

Development of communication skills is another area of deficiency in children with ASD. For instance, a child who is saying no single words by 16 months should raise concern. Also they may repeat exactly what others say without understanding the meaning, called parroting or echoing. Most young children go through a phase where they repeat what they hear. Children with ASD may repeat for a longer period and repeat movies or conversations with the tone of voice in which they heard them. The child may not respond to his or her name being called but does respond to other sounds like a car horn or a cat’s meow. They often mix up pronouns and may refer to themselves as “you” and others as “I.” They may not seem to want to communicate, won’t start or can’t continue a conversation. The child may fail to use toys or other objects to represent people or real life in pretend play. They would often have a good rote memory, especially for numbers, letters, songs, TV jingles or a specific topic. These children may show some regression in milestones especially in language. For example, a child who previously was saying “mama” or “dada” no longer says those words. About 25 percent of children with ASD will seem to have normal or near-normal development until about 18 months of age, after which they will gradually or suddenly stop using words they once had and become more withdrawn.

Problems with repetitive and obsessive behaviors can be particularly challenging in children with ASD. As mentioned earlier, stereotypic behaviors like rocking, spinning, swaying, twirling fingers, walking on toes for a long time or flapping hands. They like routines, order and rituals and have difficulty with change and transitions. They may seem obsessed with a few or unusual activities, doing them repeatedly during the day. He or she may play with parts of



Dr. Fausat Adediji.

toys instead of the whole toy, for example, spinning the wheels of a toy truck. They may be very sensitive or not sensitive at all to smells, sounds, lights, textures and touch or may not seem to feel pain.

These abnormalities of behavior, social interaction and communication including speech can constitute a major disability and a challenge for the family with long lasting consequences on the quality of life for all those involved. Though there is no actual cure for Autism or ASD, these behaviors can be modified with intensive early intervention thus leading to much improved prognosis and a better outcome in terms of their ability to be independent and be integrated with the society later on as adults. It is, however, imperative that these children are identified early so that the interventions can be most effective.

Parents and care givers who have any concerns should be proactive about discussing those concerns with their child’s medical provider. Parents are also able to self-refer to the Sooner Start program for an evaluation if they have concerns. Sooner Start is Oklahoma’s early intervention program, designed to meet the needs of infants and toddlers with disabilities and developmental delays. Services are offered at no charge to families. The program is mandated by federal and state law and is funded through various state and federal sources. As the adage goes, “A stitch in time saves nine.”

When it comes to ASDs, prompt action makes a world of difference.

Read more about Dr. Fausat Adediji here:



A roof to keep the rain out

One doesn't typically think about a roof until it's missing. For many in Pottawatomie County, Okla., a lack of adequate housing is a real concern though. With a poverty rate of more than 18 percent, a significant portion of Pottawatomie County residents rely on Native American-run housing authorities like Citizen Potawatomi Nation's Tribal Housing Department. Overseeing this provision of safe and affordable housing is Director Scott George.

An Osage Tribal member raised in Hominy, Okla., George followed the path of many a Native American athlete upon his graduation from high school to Lawrence, Kan., home to Haskell Indian Nations University.

The linebacker and quarterback spent two years there on the gridiron and in the classroom before returning to Osage County to work in the then-booming oil fields.

A decade in the oil industry is an impressive accomplishment in any age, but for George, like many longtime oil field hands, the turbulent 1980s were the final straw. Oklahoma's oil patch was hard hit by the industry's downturn, followed by the subsequent collapse of Oklahoma City's Penn Square Bank in 1982.

"I went from one oil bust to the next. The last one came in 1986, so I got out of it and began working in Broken Arrow, Okla. for a nursing home for disabled adults," explained George. "I became a job coach for these individuals, where I found employment opportunities for them."

George would interview potential

employers about their needs and pair up as many of his clients that each job required. Funding for the employees' salaries was subsidized by the U.S. Department of Labor, giving George an insight into working on public-private partnerships using federal funding resources.

"We had some good success stories with individuals who had been institutionalized their entire lives that were holding down jobs. It was rewarding for them and for us to watch them grow," said George.

By 1994, a newly married George began working for the Sac and Fox Nation Housing Authority as a grant manager. He oversaw two grants, one for youth sports and another for a drug elimination program. When that grant ended its funding cycle, George became immersed in the intricate art of grant writing, helping the tribe renew the funding. That experience resulted in his inclusion in the grant writing process for the Sac and Fox Housing Authority under their housing director, Bob Carlile. There, George began to familiarize himself with the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996, or NAHASDA. The funds from that act provide financial backing for tribal housing programs nationwide.

When Carlile left the Sac and Fox Nation for an opening at CPN, George stepped in as the housing director for several years before moving on to the same position with the Delaware Tribal Housing Authority. He drove each week from his home in Oklahoma City to his office in Bartlesville, Okla. while working for the Delawares. Though the job was fulfilling,



CPN Housing Authority Director, Scott George.

three years of that long commute led George to call his old boss Bob Carlile for any openings closer to home.

Starting off as an affordable rent manager at CPN, George's tenure coincided with the significant growth of the Tribe's assets. Fr. Murphy Housing Phase 1 was then the only CPN-owned housing project, though Fr. Murphy 2 and the Citizen Place housing developments were in the planning stages.

Amidst the rapid pace of new construction and expanded housing opportunities in those early days of the new millennium, Carlile told George of his intention to eventually step down as housing director.

"He pulled me aside and said he was going to retire," recalled George with a chuckle. "I didn't think much about it, but he proved me wrong when he retired. Eight years later."

In 2013, George became the CPN Housing Authority's director, a familiar position that continues to be a fulfilling endeavor to the man who once helped place institutionalized adults into the workforce.

"As far as being able to help people, the reward is still there," he said. "For a lot of young people, it's the first time for them to own a house. When you see somebody buy their first house or move in and maintain a property on their own, it is rewarding."

His time in housing departments for three different tribes over the course of two decades has also provided him with perspectives on the shortfalls of those programs. He described a loophole in the original housing funding regulations handed down by the U.S. government during his time with the Sac and Fox. In a mutual help program, a housing office would build a home for a tribal member who put sweat equity into it.

This "sweat equity," which consisted of cleaning up after the builders or finishing the painting, would then count as the homeowner's down payment. The homeowner would then just be responsible for monthly payments on a 25-year mortgage based on their income.

"The flaw was that the monthly pay-

ment had no ceiling," said George. "So if your income went up, so did your payment. People got discouraged because they couldn't save money up and get ahead even if they got better jobs. Some of them quit working and just met the \$25 minimum monthly payment."

When NAHASDA funds were introduced in 1996, the paternalistic attitude that allowed such loopholes largely ended and tribal housing authorities were allowed to set their own regulations. At CPN, housing clients must be working or show documentation of income. For home ownership, CPN will buy a house, repair and sell it to at a discounted rate for eligible Tribal members. Another program pays closing costs for a first home purchase. An elderly housing program offers home repair or even purchasing assistance if the house is inside the CPN's original jurisdiction.

George says his department's biggest challenge is informing potential tenants of CPN's housing policies.

"There's a misconception that Tribal housing is free. We also run into a sense of entitlement where some younger individuals feel like we are there to take care of them. I always tell them if they're having a hard time paying their rent where they're currently living; they are going to have the same problem here because we want them to pay their rent too."

George also uses his interactions with CPN's Native American housing tenants, approximately 70 percent of whom are Potawatomi, as an opportunity to encourage them to learn about their Tribe's cultural aspects.

"Just having that Native American box checked on a piece of paper doesn't work. Get involved, find out where you came from and where your family is from and it will tie you back into understanding what this is all about besides cheaper housing."

Such advice comes with some weight when spoken by George, who has been the head singer at the Osage Veterans Soldier Dance for more than two decades. George hopes to continue using his experiences, from the oil patch to the housing office, to help others as the years continue.

Pott. County courtroom to honor Judge Glenn Dale Carter



A portrait and bust of Judge Carter inside the courtroom.

Editor's Note: The following is an abridged article from the County-Wide and Sun newspaper from March 5, 2015. It is reprinted here with their express written permission. Judge Glenn Dale Carter, who walked on in February 2015, was a longtime Associate Supreme Court Justice for the Citizen Potawatomi Nation.

Pottawatomie County commissioners voted Monday [March 2] to name the main courtroom at the county courthouse in honor of the late Glenn Dale Carter.

Assistant District Attorney Tracy McDaniel told the commissioners the resolution was written by Assistant DA Russ Cochran. She also noted that the two of them were the only ones in the DA's office who had practiced extensively before Carter.

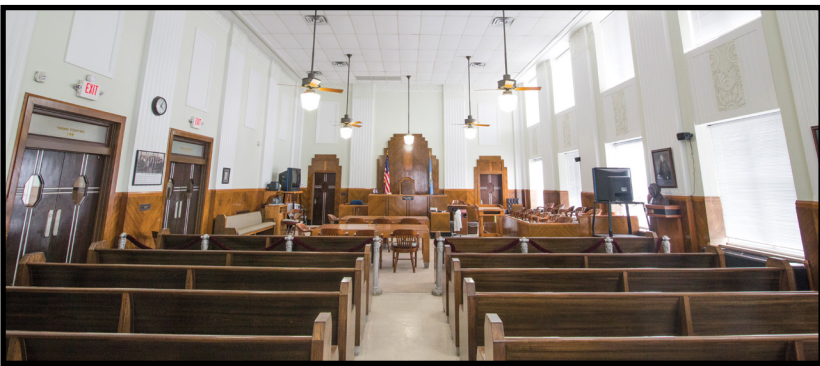
Carter, a retired district judge and associate district judge, died Feb. 9. He served on the bench for 36 years and was a well-known children's advocate.

The resolution says, in part, that "Judge Carter held the attorneys who practiced law before him to the highest standards of professional conduct and advocacy with the admonition to be 'prompt, prepared and professional'" and that "his expertise in matters of juvenile law was recognized throughout the State of Oklahoma."


It also notes that "he was instrumental in the founding of Hope House children's shelter, Carter Hall Juvenile Detention Center, Unzner Child Advocacy Centre and Project Safe

— all to further the protection of children and families; and ... continued to tirelessly serve the people of Pottawatomie County as a member of the Pottawatomie County Excise Board, Shawnee Police Foundation and other boards and committees ... (and) fostered a love of local history as an author and member of the Tecumseh and Pottawatomie County Historical Societies."

The proclamation states that what was known as Courtroom No. 1 will now be known as the Glenn Dale Carter Memorial Courtroom.



The Pottawatomie County Courthouse will have a new courtroom named in the judge's honor.



CPN VETERANS REPORT

Bozho,

Attention Reservist Veterans,

Many reservists who served as crew members, flight nurses and maintenance workers from the 1970s to the 1980s on aircraft previously used to spray Agent Orange defoliant as part of what the military called Operation Ranch Hand during the Vietnam War were considered ineligible for Health Care and Disability Benefits.

However, the VA appears ready to change its mind after a January report from the Institute of Medicine concluded that C-123 reservists were likely exposed to dangerous levels of dioxin, the toxic chemical in Agent Orange. The VA is expected to make an announcement soon about treatment and benefits for these reservists. *Migwetch!*

On another note, progress has been made in finalizing our Vietnam Banquet plans and I have included important information in this report.

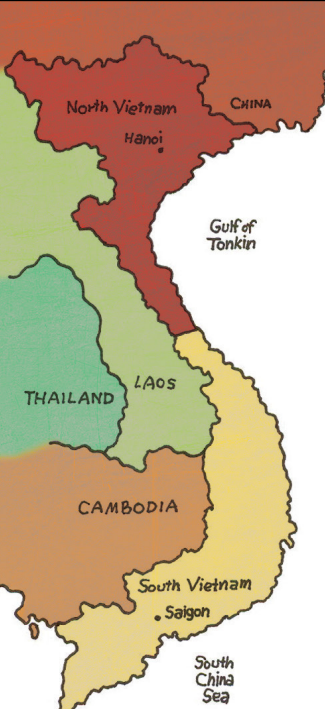
VIETNAM ERA VETERANS BANQUET
September 26, 2015 at 5:00 p.m.
Location is to be announced.

A pamphlet that includes a form to be filled out and mailed to the CPN Veterans Organization should be inside this issue of the *Hownikan*. The deadline for our receiving this information to finalize the planning is 15 July 2015. We now have a phone number for contacting the CPN Veterans Organization: 405-964-4894.

Remember the CPN Veterans Organization meets every month on the fourth Tuesday at 6 p.m. (or as soon as you can get there) in the North Reunion Hall on the Potawatomi Powwow Grounds.

All CPN veterans and their families are welcome. A meal is provided.

Migwetch!
Daryl Talbot, Commander
CPN Veterans Organization




VIETNAM ERA CPN VETERANS BANQUET 2015
SEPT. 26, 2015, 5:00 P.M.

CPN Veterans who served in the U.S. Armed Forces from August 5, 1964 to May 7, 1975 are cordially invited to attend with one free guest. Extra guests may purchase tickets for \$10 each. Potawatomi Veterans of any era are also invited to attend. Location is to be announced.

Mail completed form below with payment no later than July 15, 2015.

Make checks payable to CPN Veterans Organization.

Mail to: CPN Veterans Organization
1601 Gordon Cooker Drive
Shawnee, OK 74801



Vietnam Era Veteran Name: _____

Guest: _____ Yes _____ No

Number of additional guests: _____ x \$10 each _____ total

Other Veteran name: _____

Number of guests: _____ x \$10 each _____ total

Phone: _____

Email address: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Dates of service: _____

Questions? Contact CPN Veterans Organization at above address, call main phone number: 405-964-4894, or contact Commander Daryl Talbot talbotok@sbcglobal.net or Treasurer David Joe Barrett dbarrett@potawatomi.org.



Homeownership Opportunity CPNHA Acquisition Program

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation Housing Authority currently has two homes within its Acquisition inventory for sale. We will offer a sizable mortgage buy down. These two homes are located in the Tecumseh City limits. To be eligible, you must meet the following:

- Enrolled CPN Tribal member
- Within the current HUD income limits per family size
- Credit worthiness is a must
- First National Bank & Trust, Shawnee, OK, is the required lender
- Home must be primary residence
- At least 1% down of the total price must be own funds
- Free of any felony convictions, includes all household members

The One Time Grant can work with this program, if it has never been used.

Total household income must qualify at the time of the application, and at the time of closing of the home loan. For more information and at the time of the closing of the home loan. For more information, please contact Sherry Byers, Homeownership Manager, at (405) 273-2833 or sbyers@potawatomi.org.

Potawatomi on university Ranger Challenge team to compete at Sandhurst

The following article is reprinted with permission from the University of North Georgia. District 2 Tribal member William Samuel Anderson is part of a Ranger Challenge team at the university that will compete against other teams from across the globe at the prestigious Sandhurst Military Academy in Great Britain.

The University of North Georgia (UNG) Ranger Challenge team will compete in the international Sandhurst Military Skills Competition after beating teams from the nation's junior and senior military colleges in the Bold Leader Challenge at Fort Knox, Kentucky. UNG also was awarded the weapons streamer for winning the shooting competition.

As The Military College of Georgia and a state leadership institution, UNG is dedicated to educating leaders who can succeed in a global environment. U.S. Army Cadet Command's Bold Leader Challenge, which tests leadership, endurance, physical fitness and military skills, requires cadets to put that education and training into practice, said Col.

Todd Wilson, active-duty professor of military science at UNG.

"Winning Bold Leader Challenge is a tremendous accomplishment that speaks highly of the leadership development program we have at the University of North Georgia," Wilson said. "To win, a team must be educated to think critically and work together as a team to solve problems. For example, I firmly believe that our cadets won the marksmanship portion of the competition because of their knowledge and their leadership skills, and not solely due to their ability to engage targets."

Cadet 1st Lt. Ryan Deits, the officer in charge of UNG's Ranger Challenge team, credited last year's team, which placed a close second to eventual Sandhurst runner-up Texas A&M. Deits said training organized by cadets Marlana Schmidt and William Anderson and support from UNG instructors Capt. Donovan Duke, Sgt. 1st Class Corey Remer and Sgt. 1st Class David M. Smith will remain important to the team's success going into Sandhurst.



William Samuel Anderson (top right) with the UNG Ranger Team.

"We're just going to take everything we have now, take it up a few levels and work as hard as we can. Sandhurst is a lot of the same events, they're just more complicated and more strenuous," Deits said. "These competitions test all of the skills we've learned at UNG, particularly the leadership skills, which can help you for the rest of your career in any branch you go into in the military."

The team has little time to savor victory, with several more months of training ahead before competing against teams of cadets from seven other ROTC units, the nation's service academies and military academies from around the world at the Sandhurst competition April 10-11 at

West Point, N.Y. Since its inception in 1967, Sandhurst has been dominated by Great Britain's Royal Military Academy Sandhurst; only one American team has won the competition since 1994 and an ROTC team has never won.

Though the challenges and the competitors are at a much higher level at Sandhurst, teamwork is still the key to success, Wilson said.

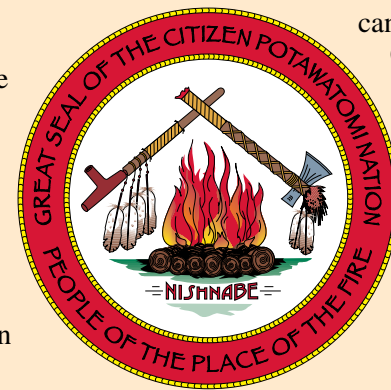
"To win at Sandhurst, our team must continue to improve with their individual soldier skills and conditioning; however, the key to success, or winning, will be leadership and the ability to function as a cohesive team."

CPN employees form Relay for Life team

Staff from the across the Citizen Potawatomi Nation are doing their part to raise funds for cancer by participating in an upcoming Relay for Life event. The CPN Fishing for a Cure team, headed by co-captains Desiree Smith and Marsha Jacobs, will prepare for the Walk for Life marathon on May 1, 2015. There will be various fundraising efforts before and during the event, from 6

p.m. – 1 a.m.

The team will be selling nachos and Frito Chili Pies at the event, which will be donated by FireLake Discount Foods, as well as other items like cupcakes, cotton



candy and bottled water. CPN Fishing for the Cure will also have an inflatable football toss game and face painting to raise funds.

FireLake Designs is creating custom designed t-shirts for

the team, while the Grand Casino Hotel and Resort has donated tickets to concerts at the Grand Event Center, stays at the Grand Hotel, spa packages and more. For more information about how you can donate to the Grand team, please contact Desiree Smith at desiree.smith@potawatomi.org.

CPN FESTIVAL BULLSEYE PISTOL MATCH

WIN CASH PRIZES!

COMPETITORS:

This match is limited to Citizen Potawatomi Nation members and their families. Competitors must be over the age of 21 on June 27, 2015. Entries are limited to 18 shooters per relay

WHERE:

BDC Gun Room
40960 Hardesty Road
Shawnee, OK 74801
(405) 273-9554

WHEN:

Saturday June 27, 2015
First Relay: 8:00 am
Second Relay: 9:00 am
Third Relay: 10:00 am

HOW TO ENTER

Complete the entry forms at BDC Gun Room prior to the relay in which you wish to shoot. Limit 18 entries per relay; entries are on a first-come, first-served basis. **Entry forms must be completed prior to the relay being called to the line.**

BDC
GUN ROOM
INDOOR SHOOTING RANGE
(405) 273-9554 • BDCGUNROOM.COM

SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS: Firearms must be transported and stored in accordance with the laws of the State of Oklahoma and the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. No weapons are permitted on the Festival Grounds. Pistols are available for rent or purchase at BDC Gun Room. Ammunition is available for purchase. All competitors are responsible for providing their own pistols and ammunition. A minimum of 50 rounds of ammunition is recommended. BDC Gun Room has secure storage space for competitor's fire arms.

CLASSES:

.22 Class (Men & Women)

- .22 caliber pistol or revolver capable of holding 5 or more rounds in a magazine or cylinder
- Iron, dot or scope sights
- One-hand or two-hand stance

Open Class (Men & Women)

- Any center-fire caliber pistol or revolver up to .45 capable of holding 5 or more rounds in a magazine or cylinder
- No armor piercing, steel or tracer ammunition allowed
- Iron, dot or scope sights
- One- or two-hand stance

OTHER INFORMATION:

Distance: 7 yards, 15 yards and 25 yards

Targets: NRA B-8 for all courses of fire

Course of Fire / Time Limit: Three courses of slow fire, ten shots each for record.

Sighters Unlimited sighters: 10 minutes

- 1st course of fire 10 shots slow fire at 7 yards (5 min.)
- 2nd course of fire 10 shots slow fire at 15 yards (5 min.)
- 3rd course of fire 10 shots slow fire at 25 yards (5 min.)

Scoring: Targets will be scored after each 10 shots, in place prior to removal from the target hanger and with a Line Safety Officer Present. Competitors will score each other's targets. Both the competitor and scorer must sign the score sheet.

Results: Results will be posted on the BDC Gun Room Bulletin Board. Awards will be available immediately after the results are posted.

CITIZEN POTAWATOMI NATION OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH WATER & SEPTIC ASSISTANCE

If you are experiencing surfacing sewage, well problems, or building a new home. Give us a call to see if we can assist you.

"Our program is to assist Native Americans with safe and sanitary drinking water and sewer."



What to bring:

- Tribal enrollment card
- Warranty deed
- Photo ID

We serve the following counties:

Pottawatomie • Cleveland • Lincoln
Oklahoma • Logan

OEH Department

41707 Hardesty Rd. • Shawnee, Okla. 74849
405-878-4672 • Fax 405-878-4678

FREE WILLS AND ESTATES CLINIC

at the Citizen Potawatomi Courthouse
Shawnee, OK

MONDAY, MAY 11, 2015

OKLAHOMA INDIAN LEGAL SERVICES, INC.

For details and to make your appointment call

1-800-658-1497

(you must have an appointment to see an attorney)

Oklahoma Indian Legal Services, Inc.
4200 Perimeter Center Drive, Suite 222
Oklahoma City, OK 73112
www.oilsonline.org

405-943-6457
800-658-1497
405-917-7060 Fax

This project is supported by
funding from the legal services
corporation, Washington, D.C.





Wadasé Zhabwé soars beyond all expectations

Time flies it seems. On April 16, 2015, 730 days will have passed to mark two years since Wadasé's release. She has surpassed all expectations as we continue to learn valuable information from her telemetry.

Many experts in the field marvel at the incredible amount of data gathered and her continued progress. With flights reaching heights above 9,000 ft. (1.7 miles) and speeds over 55 mph, it is safe to say Wadasé has mastered the sky. She is able to carry our prayers to the Creator, Mamo-Gosnan, and for that we are grateful.

Below is a recap of some of the highlights from the past two years' progress.

In June 2012, the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Eagle Aviary received a juvenile bald eagle originally from the Florida Audubon Society. Many people know this eagle as *Wadasé* and have watched her progress for the past two years as she continues to explore Pottawatomie County.

Long before she was *Wadasé Zhabwé*, CPN

staff knew her as *Penojés*. Discovered near her nest in Orange County, Fla., she arrived at the CPN Eagle Aviary when she was approximately five months old and was given the Potawatomi name *Penojés*. She had suffered an injury to her left wing, including a fractured wing tip, extensive tissue damage and loss of her primary flight feathers.

The CPN Aviary staff planned to glove-train the young eagle and use her as an educational bird for students and Tribal members.

"When we received her we didn't believe that she would ever fly again," said Jennifer Randell, CPN Eagle Aviary manager. "At that time, we felt she would make a great educational bird. We didn't have a separate mews for her then and decided to put her in the enclosure with other eagles."

However, she began to fly when those missing flight feathers grew back and it was clear her non-releasable status needed to be re-evaluated. By fall 2012, it was determined that *Penojés* had regained flight ability well enough to consider release back to the wild.

Penojés was cared for and rehabilitated by several experts in the aviary field. During the course of several months she learned to hunt and regained her strength and conditioning for flight. On April 16, 2013 she received a new Potawatomi name, *Wadasé Zhabwé*, meaning "Brave Breakthrough."

Wadasé was banded and released with a tracking device so that aviary staff could monitor her progress.

Citizen Potawatomi Nation, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the Raptor View Research Institute of Missoula and Comanche Nation Sia all joined together to rehabilitate *Wadasé* and were prepared to release and track the juvenile bald eagle. The CPN Aviary became the first ever Native American Aviary to release an eagle back into the wild banded and fitted with a GPS telemetry backpack.

"That backpack gave us the confidence to release her knowing we could monitor her progress and intervene if she should have problems adjusting in the wild," said Ran-

dell. "We never imagined the incredible amount of data we would be able to gather."

Over the past two years the backpack has logged over fourteen thousand GPS points containing data such as location, speed, direction height, and temperature. While she has remained in Oklahoma since her release, she continues to explore new parts of the state, visiting nearly a third of its 77 counties. The closest she came to leaving the state was to the north just 7.5 miles from the Kansas border near the Great Salt Plains Lake. Her furthest trip south followed her discovery of the Washita River near Lindsay, which she followed to her westernmost point past Ft. Cobb stopping just short of Carnegie. To the east she has only gone as far as Okmulgee. Although she has never been more than 130 miles from the aviary since her release, she has logged thousands of miles flying as she ventures afield.

During the month of March 2015, Oklahoma experienced some of the worst winter weather of this season and for the first time since her release, *Wadasé* didn't return to the aviary. During inclement weather she would normally arrive at the aviary just before the storm and would remain until the weather improved. She was better at forecasting the weather it seemed than our local weather station. But the recent storms came with heavy winds, snow and ice while she remained on the Washita River in the southwest portion of the state. She has been along the Washita almost two months now, except for one brief afternoon visit last month before returning to the same area just east of Chickasha. The first year of her release we saw her 146 days at the aviary. This past year that number was cut in less than half. She has become completely independent and proved that she is not just sustaining herself but she is thriving in the wild.

Rob Domenech from the Raptor View

Research Institute equipped *Wadasé* with the GPS backpack commented on her progress.

"I would have to say she is doing great. If you get a year of data you can't complain. Anything after that is a bonus. *Wadasé* has proven herself to be a survivor and I am optimistic she will continue to do well, giving important glimpses into the details of her life."

"We couldn't be more pleased with that bonus data," added Bree Dunham, CPN Eagle Aviary Asst. Manager. "It is humbling that *Wadasé* has allowed us to share so much space and time with her since her release but it seems from this point forward we will have to rely on the GPS with her visits being less frequent."

The aviary staff will continue to monitor her progress and look forward to the coming year. "We hope to see if she follows the same trends and visits the same areas in the coming year," said Randell. "We hope to have the opportunity to follow her until she begins nesting in the next few years. Perhaps then we could follow her fledglings and continue to tell her story for generations to come."

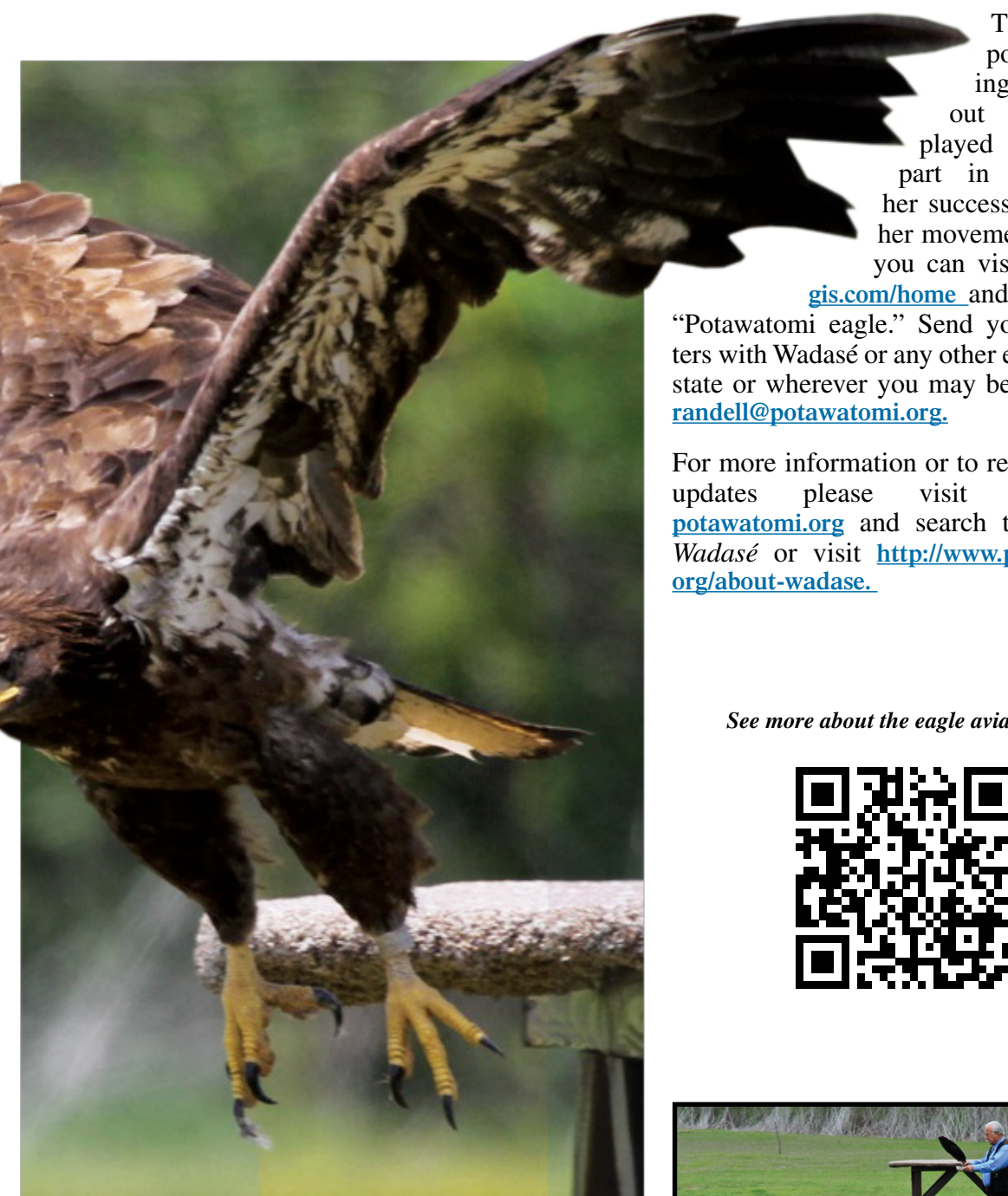
The CPN Aviary staff would like to once again extend a sincere thank you to all of those involved in making this release not just a possibility but a success. From the good Samaritan who brought her to the Florida Audubon Society for treatment, to the dedicated staff who cared for her there, Sia: The Comanche Nation Aviary who assisted with her release, Rob Domenech from the Raptor View Research Institute who came all the way from Montana to fit her with telemetry and band her, to the CPN for the support of this program, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service for their efforts and to all the individuals who follow her story and keep her in your thoughts and to those close enough to keep an eye out for her here in Oklahoma.

Without all these people coming together this release would not have been possible. Please continue to keep an eye on the skies as *Wadasé Zhabwé* ventures into new areas of the state.

The many reports of sightings throughout state have played an intricate part in monitoring her success. To follow her movements with us you can visit www.arcgis.com/home and search for "Potawatomi eagle." Send your encounters with *Wadasé* or any other eagles in the state or wherever you may be to jennifer.randell@potawatomi.org.

For more information or to read previous updates please visit <http://www.potawatomi.org> and search the site for *Wadasé* or visit <http://www.potawatomi.org/about-wadase>.

See more about the eagle aviary here:



The Citizen Potawatomi Aviary is open to visitors.



Wadase pounces on her prey, March 2014.



Chairman Barrett blesses the landing platform prior to Wadase's release in 2013.

PLP ALUMNI REFLECTIONS



THE POTAWATOMI LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Each year, college-age Tribal members from around the country travel to Oklahoma to participate in an internship at the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, the Potawatomi Leadership Program. The dates for participating in the program this year are from June 19, 2015 to Aug. 1, 2015. Applications can be submitted from March 1 to May 1. Those selected to participate in the 2015 PLP class will be notified by May 15.

To qualify, an applicant must be a Potawatomi Tribal member with a GPA of 3.0 or better, between the ages of 18-20 by the program’s start date, and have completed no more than one year of college. For more information about the program and attending, refer to the PLP website plp.potawatomi.org or contact Dennette Summerlin at 800- 880-9880, ext. 1103.

The following are the final takes that alumni of the past two year’s programs have had upon their graduation from the PLP.



Miranda Hazelton
2013 PLP

August 2013 – Miranda Hazelton is 18 years old and a member of the Peltier family from San Antonio, Texas. Miranda will be a freshman at the University of Texas at San Antonio in the fall.

“PLP was the perfect combination of the two things I was looking for: knowledge of my heritage, and an internship to prepare myself for college. I’ve learned things from how to fringe to how our government works. Every day is something new, and sometimes it’s a lot to take in, but I’m excited for everything I have yet to learn.”

Miranda had previously been to Shawnee for Festival in 2010.

“I want this to be the starting point for my involvement in the Tribe. I want to go from here and keep learning, keep with it any way I can, and then bring it all back to my family and get them involved too.”

Miranda will major in modern languages, and hopes to become an interpreter, and then to use that career to travel the world.

Editor’s Note: In the fall of 2014, Hazelton spoke about the PLP’s impact on her life at the National Congress of American Indians.



Lydia Davidson
2014 PLP

August 2014 – Like her fellow West Coast PLP classmates, Lydia Davidson summed up her preconceived notions of a summer internship at the Citizen Potawatomi Nation saying, “I came to Oklahoma with the impression that it would be how I envisioned Kansas to be: dusty, dry, hot, without Wi-Fi or cellphone service. The CPN that greeted me on my first Monday of work was a large enterprise that despite its vastness, still managed to capture the family aspect and cultural teachings of the Tribe.”

A Kennedy and Weld descendant, Davidson says her expectations were exceeded because “there are green trees, never a dust storm and the weather never broke any heat records.”

Raised around members of the coastal tribes in her Seattle, Wash. home, Davison credits the PLP program with giving her a chance to reconnect with her family’s Tribe and learn its history and traditions.

Davison and project partner Kristi Melot laid the foundations for a future smartphone app that Family Festival attendees may use to register, learn about regalia, connect with family and follow the schedule at the annual event. It was an easy transition for the University of Washington student who is studying Human Centered Design and Engineering, and was named *Gdede Mned O Kwe* (Otter Spirit Woman) for her playfully independent attitude and leadership qualities by Sharp House Mother Margaret Zientek.



Nick Smith
2014 PLP

August 2014 – Allen, Texas’ Nick Smith faced a choice between a summer move with his family to California or the Potawatomi Leadership Program. After a couple weeks of helping prepare for the move though, he decided a trip to Shawnee, Okla. as a PLP member might be a nice change of pace.

Speaking in the final days of the 2014 PLP’s activities at the CPN Administration Building, it appeared the Anderson-family descendant’s decision worked out. In his final remarks reflecting on the six-week internship, the cellular and molecular biology student from Texas Tech University remarked that his time at the CPN Health Clinics provided an insight into a unique health care system. For a pre-med like Smith, it was an eye opening experience.

“I really liked how CPN structures their healthcare system,” he said. “It’s something I had not even heard of before, but having seen it first hand, it is really interesting to me to compare it to what is out there now.”

Smith, who admitted that his attendance at previous Family Festivals strictly centered on playing in the golf tournament, said that his time as a PLP filled in some gaps of his identity.

“I never took the time to find out more about my family history, the Tribe’s culture or even the history of the Tribe. However, these questions lingered in my mind. I continuously assumed that one day, when I was older, I would take the time to answer them. Little did I know, they would be answered in the summer of 2014.”

FireLodge Youth update – April 2015

By Darin Greene,
Coordinator FireLodge Tribal Youth

March was a very busy time at the P.L.A.C.E., starting with the Tribal Youth’s collection of items for a care package to the Pine Ridge Cove Tribal Youth Group in South Dakota. On Jan. 24, 2015, the Pine Ridge Tribal Youth were subjected to racial slurs and had beer thrown on them at a Rapid City Rush hockey game. We wanted to show them that despite that ugliness, there are a lot more positive people in the world.

Academic Specialist Ben McCalister and Prevention Specialist Wilson Littlehead have begun a college readiness class with around 12 of our youth in grades 8-11. This class is intended to help incoming freshman through high school aged students to gain information needed to prepare for college.

Amanda Chapman from the House of

Hope held a group discussion on teen dating violence prevention, a very important message for our participants to hear. Those who participated signed a creed at the close of the session titled “These Hands Won’t Hurt.”

This accompanied our lessons for Youth Violence Prevention week, where our students participated in activities and created art focused on preventing violence amongst themselves and their peers.

The Seabots hit the water for the first time in the child development center’s indoor pool with varying degrees of success. It was great to allow the students to see their products put to the test after the past two months of work.

Our Tribal Youth program is also in the midst of a collaboration with departments like Indian Child Welfare, the Cultural Heritage Center, the CPN Eagle Aviary and the CPN Dia-

betes Program on the Tribal community garden. The youth made signs to show where produce is planted for the garden’s variety of fruits, vegetables and plants. The creation of the signs put mental and physical labor to good use, with each one having English and Potawatomi spellings. Each group learned how to plant the seeds and pull weeds, a physical and mental exercise considering the garden is an acre in size.

The Diabetes Program provided a nutrition class teaching the youth healthy eating practices and how to best live a healthy life. This class was part of a larger collaboration between CPN’s Diabetes Program and the Seminole State College’s Nurse’s Program aimed at preventing diabetes. This four week program recently concluded with the diabetes program doing a cooking demonstration for the youth, showing them how they can prepare and cook their own healthy meals.

Spring Break was an exciting time for the youth, where a swimming visit at the child development center pool was also combined into a learning experience. The youth were trained in CPR and First Aid before drying off and heading over for an afternoon at FireLake Bowling Center.

Midweek in Spring Break also saw our Tribal youth participants celebrate “Kick Butt Day,” a leading event in our smoking prevention program. To illustrate the detrimental impact of tobacco on cardiovascular fitness, we then took the youth for a day at the Hay Day Laser Tag Center in Norman. We completed the week with a movie at the Warren Movie Theater in Moore before and lunch at Steak-N-Shake.

Below is a complete list of our FireLodge Youth Officers for the 2014-15 school year.



Trae Trousdale – President/Male Representative

My name is Trae Trousdale. My grandfather named me *Ghesus Nana* (Sun Man). I am a sophomore at Tecumseh High School, and currently serve as the FireLodge Youth Council President. I am a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation and am a descendant of the Toupin family.

I was originally reluctant to join the FYC, but after my first meeting decid-

ed that I needed to get more involved in my Tribal community and develop peer relationships. A little more than four years later I still have yet to regret my decision. While a part of the FYC I haven’t only learned the importance of communication, but have been able to participate in tribal activities while developing and exercising leadership skills and abilities.



Duncan Hoffman – Vice-President

I joined FireLodge Youth Council because it was a fun way to get out of the house and help people in with community service.

The reason I joined the FireLodge Youth Council goes back to when I asked my Aunt Linda (or Linda Capps) if there was somewhere or someone that could help me do my homework without getting distracted on my cell phone. She mentioned the P.L.A.C.E which stands for Potawatomi Learning and Cultural Exchange and said it was exactly what I was looking for. Therefore, I joined the P.L.A.C.E and the time I was there I started noticing people setting up tables at the P.L.A.C.E and ask them what are they doing and they said setting up for the Youth Council meeting.

My name is Duncan Hoffman and I am a Potawatomi. I am from the Navarre Family and I go to Dale.

So I go back to my Aunt Linda and ask what is the FireLake Youth Council and she replied, “Join the Youth Council to find out.”

I joined the Youth Council and at first it was just a fun and helpful way to get out of the house and to help with the community service. But now I realize that it is more than that. The people you are following or helping become your family and I don’t know what I would do if I didn’t have them. It also helps in the long run with college applications and help you get a job because leading or following a youth council look very good on resume because they know you can give and follow instructions.

Mataya Baez
Female Representative



Breylyn Stewart
Secretary

My name is Breylyn Stewart and I am a Potawatomi from the Holloway Family. I go to Bethel High School.

I joined FireLodge Youth Council four years ago to learn more about my Tribe and help the program grow. During my time I’ve learned that at FireLodge people are helpful and there aren’t many cliques, we respect each other and we get to take a fun trip at the end of the year.

Ashley Warnock – Treasurer



KGFF's Mike Askins a stalwart on Pottawatomie County airwaves

In the digital age, every new car comes with an outlet for an iPod or smartphone, while many new models also boast XM satellite tuners. On the more traditional broadcast channels like FM radio, multinational conglomerates own dozens of stations around the nation, responsible for a uniformity of programming that is unseen in American history. Yet there remain a few voices focusing on local news for those outside the major metropolitan areas, broadcasting as much as their wattage allows. KGFF's Mike Askins, who has been on the air since the Carter Administration, is one such voice, well known to many in Pottawatomie County.

On where he's from and where he's been...

"I worked in Stillwater at KVRO, but most of my life has been spent here, born and raised in Shawnee, Okla.

"I'm a Cherokee descendant on my mother's side of the family. My maternal grandfather and his mother spoke Cherokee and Mvscogee Creek. I have forgotten nearly everything I heard as a kid, I only remember bits and pieces."

"I went to Oklahoma Baptist University because I had free tuition, but I but dropped out to become an extremely well paid disc jockey... that hasn't worked out so far."

On why he got on the air...

"My dad was a disc jockey in his hometown of Duncan, Okla. When he moved to OBU for college, he was on the air at the college radio station before working for KGFF in the mid-1960s while also working as a teacher

at Shawnee High School.

"My dad was the speech and drama coach at the high school and thought the best way to teach his students was to demonstrate that on the radio. He had a nighttime show, and one of the first memories I have was seeing him do his radio thing and thinking that it would be fun."

"I went to OBU to study church music, but did speech and drama too. I got on the radio for the public speaking part of it.

"I always had an aptitude for electronics. I was a HAM Radio operator before I got into broadcast radio. So I would always hang out with the radio engineers when my dad was on the air and have them show me how to do stuff, and so a lot of my training came from on-the-job training."

On being inspired by Wolfman Jack or Dr. Johnny Fever...

"Sadly I'm going to have to say Wolfman Jack because he was the guy I watched on the Midnight Special. He had that patter, that way of putting things together that couldn't be matched.

"I was teased that I was more like Johnny Fever by my friends, but Wolfman probably inspired me to do more talking on air."

On the most compelling on-air story he's covered...

"Probably the best thing I've done was the live (severe) weather coverage.

"I was live on the air during the May 2013 tornado, having come back into town from Saint Louis, Mo. and



Mike Askins.

heard the warning sirens. I pulled into my house, which is on the north part of town near the Shawnee Mall. I could see the tornado's debris field as it hit Steelman Estates Trailer Park.

"I drove to our transmitter site to make sure we stayed on the air, and did live reports while our in-studio DJ James Nicholson, did his reports from there. The saddest thing was that James lived in Steelman Estates. While he and I were on the air, he lost his home. We didn't drop off the air until after the tornado passed, and that only happened because a lightning strike hit the tower while I was sitting right next to it.

"We also had a tornado in 2011 that hit the Tecumseh area and I was on the air in the studio. They came in and said that we were evacuating back into the freezers of FireLake Discount Foods, which is next to our location. But I stayed on the air, because this studio is a pretty good chunk of concrete.

"I later got a phone call from somebody who said they didn't know what was going on that day and turned on KGFF and heard me say 'Take cover now!' They literally watched their house go away as they went down the stairs to the basement. They called back and told me that I saved their life.

"It's one of those moments that you say, 'Okay, I am doing something

right.' That's your justification for all the years of telling bad jokes on the radio."

On his time with KGFF...

"I've been with KGFF since 1976 when I started as a high school reporter in a 15-minute show with my buddy.

"The Tribe bought us in 1998, taking over full time in 1999. They bought the license, a few pieces of equipment and me."

On running an AM broadcast in the digital age...

"Localism is a thing I fight for. I was fortunate enough to be chosen by the Federal Communications Commission to testify on the importance of localism in broadcasting.

"Satellite radio is just fine for music and entertainment, but stations like KGFF were licensed to serve the public interest. We do that by talking about what is happening with a local school group or Cub Scout pack, local issues and things are important to segments of the community are just things you can't get from satellite radio.

"Even compared to our competitors in Oklahoma City who have to cater to a wider, statewide audience, we keep it Shawnee and Pottawatomie County focused."

CPCDC leading the fight against predatory lending

By Tina Pollard
Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corporation
Consumer Lending Manager

"Buy here, pay here" car lots, payday and signature loan lenders all are big business in Oklahoma. In the non-profit world, we call these companies predatory lenders. There is a distinct reason we consider them predatory. Like lions, they prey on people who can't get away. Most of the time, a bruised credit report causes people to fall out of mainstream banking, thereby forcing them to utilize predatory lenders.

In Okla., there are more payday loan storefronts than McDonald's and Wal-Mart's combined. The loans they offer are usually less than two weeks in length and the entire balance of the loan plus a hefty loan fee is involved. For instance, someone who borrows \$200 will repay a minimum of \$250.

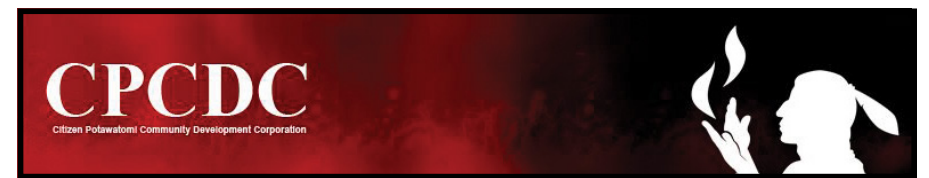
That may sound expensive and it is. The way payday lenders make a profit is by lending to someone who does not have the money to pay off

the loan. If the customer is unable to pay off the loan then the lender renews it and charges another \$50 fee. A typical payday loan is renewed 10 times before it is paid off, which means that original \$200 loan would generate \$500 in fees.

"Buy here, pay here" car lots have become increasingly popular too. Usually this type of dealership sells the car and makes the loan directly. Hence the name "buy here, pay here."

These dealerships usually charge at least 21 percent interest and make a career of repossessing cars. What happens when they repossess a vehicle? It is refurbished, detailed, and sold again.

Signature loan companies are different than a payday loan because they extend a longer term and have a lower APR. A signature loan has a term of 6-12 months and the APR is usually around 35 percent. Signature loan companies report positive payments to the credit bureau, but that also means they report negative information too. The payments on these



types of loans are very expensive and most people find it difficult to work into their budget. This is why most people re-borrow the money before the loan is paid off, making the loan even more expensive.

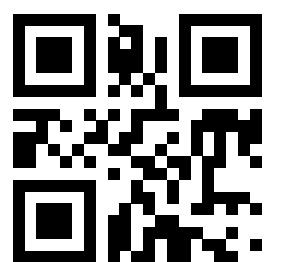
The Citizen Potawatomi Nation administration and the Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corporation have been very aggressive in the fight against predatory lending. CPN offers a small dollar loan to its employees at a much lower cost than its predatory counterparts. They also offer an auto loan to employees of the Nation. CPN Tribal members are offered free credit counseling and online classes through the CPCDC.

For those rebuilding their credit, there is a credit builder loan that works like a prepaid loan. After the

last payment is made, the proceeds of the loan are paid to the borrower. The credit builder loan reports to the credit bureaus and, thus, helps the borrower build credit.

Predatory loans are not the only option for those with bad credit. If you would like more information about any of these programs please call 405-878-4697 or email info@cpcdc.org.

Visit the CPCDC here:



Shane Jett speaks at UN Human Rights Council



Shane Jett.

On March 5, 2015, Cherokee Nation citizen and Citizen Potawatomi Development Corporation Director Shane Jett spoke before the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva. Jett discussed the historical and contemporary issues facing Native American, and specifically the impact of the blood quantification in limiting young members from attaining full tribal memberships. His remarks are below.

Distinguished Delegates,

It is an honor for me to address the High Level Segment of the Human Rights Council and speak out for the Native American indigenous tribes of the United States.

I bring greetings from my beloved country, the United States of America, my State of Oklahoma, home of 39 Native American tribes, and my own tribe, the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma. *Osiyo!*

I am grateful to the FAWCO for this opportunity. As a former legislator in Oklahoma, I worked closely with each of our 39 tribes. I have advocated for all tribes on the state and national level. Today, I am truly grateful for this international forum to advocate for the rights of our future generations.

Like many tribes, the Cherokee Nation's was forced from our homelands to travel great distances by threat of military violence. We called this our "Trail of Tears." We were forbidden to worship in our traditional religions. We were denied citizenship. Our land was taken and redistributed...the list is long and sad.

There are many human rights issues that plague the Native American

populations:

- Violence against Native women
- Extreme poverty
- Lending practices
- Discrimination
- Lawsuits over taxation

These are well documented. I wish to tell you today about the destructive practice of blood quantification to determine the degree of "Indian Blood." This was implemented in 1885, and was often done in an arbitrary and non-scientific fashion by simply looking at skin color or other physical appearance to determine if you were "a full blood" or a "half breed."

The real purpose for the "blood quantification" was to mathematically reduce the number of tribal members by attrition. Though the United States has since dropped this requirement, the damage was done. Today many tribes continue to use blood quantum to justify expelling native children whose blood quantum drops below the minimum threshold.

The truth is that blood quantum was never part of true and authentic Cherokee culture or tradition. It was never a part of any American Indian tribal tradition. The irony is that it was never a European or American tradition. It was invented solely for the

purpose of dividing us until we were no more. No need for violence. With the right mathematics there will be no more American Indians.

The ultimate tragedy would be for our ancestors to have endured so much to survive, only for my generation to squander our existence for all time. If we lack the wisdom to reject this mathematical formula, many tribes will cease to exist.

My appeal to the Human Rights Council is to consider recognizing the practice of expelling children from their tribe based upon an antiquated blood quantum system is both traumatic and a violation of their basic human rights. Blood quantum should be relegated to the pages of history as the archaic practice that it is. Blood quantification may be a useful practice for breeding and tracking livestock, but it should never be used as a means to expel Indian youth from their tribe, their culture, their heritage and their birthright.

Thank you.

Neither the Cherokee Nation nor the Citizen Potawatomi Nation use blood quantum as an arbiter of tribal citizenship.

CPN Housing Notice

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation's Housing Department is accepting applications for two OCI modular homes.

To qualify, you must be a CPN Tribal Elder (70 or older) who owns land inside the Tribal jurisdiction that qualifies for low-income housing assistance.

Contact Debra Wakole at dwakole@potawatomi.org or call 405-273-2833 or 800-880-9880 for more info.



Hownikan

1601 S. Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, Oklahoma

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Address changes should be sent to: Citizen Potawatomi Tribal Rolls, 1601 S. Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, OK 74801.

Legislative update: April 2015

The Tribal legislature convened its latest meeting on February 26, too late for press deadline in the March 2015 *Hownikan*.

After some discussion, the legislature approved a motion to table a vote on memorandum of understanding between CPN and AMERIND Risk Management Corporation, which will offer property and casualty insurance products to persons residing in the CPN Tribal boundaries. More information about the details of the MOU will be presented at a later meeting.

The legislature also authorized the submission of the proposed tribal transit grant application. If approved by the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Transit Administration, it would continue funding for CPN's transit program.

Legislators also authorized a renewal of a juvenile detention service agreement with the Sac and Fox Nation, while a grant applica-



The 2014-2015 Tribal Legislature.

tion for funding under the Department of Justice's Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation program was also approved. That application will continue funding for the Tribe's development of comprehensive ap-

proaches to public safety and criminal justice issues falling under CPN's jurisdiction.

An amendment was also made to Title 15 of the CPN Tribal Codes with

regards to the procedures in the Healing to Wellness Drug Court.

A grant funding request to continue the Family Violence and Prevention Services program was voted for with unanimous consent.

Representatives also approved the Tribe's continued participation in the Bureau of Indian Affairs climate change assessment program (new grant not a continuation).

Two additional items with the Bureau of Indian Affairs were approved. The legislature voted in favor of a one-time funding request to the BIA's Office of Trust Services, while a second vote was unanimously approved on a separate request to the agency regarding the disbursement of funds due to the Tribe.

Two separate citizenship votes also took place, enrolling a total of 145 new Potawatomi into the Nation.

Tribal elections approach for Potawatomi nationwide

Citizen Potawatomi Nation voters get set to elect candidates for three legislative seats, all based in Oklahoma. Also on the ballot this year is the annual Tribal budget, which can be voted on by all eligible CPN voters nationwide. Only CPN members who are 18 or older as of Election Day will be eligible to vote.

All eligible CPN voters living in Oklahoma can vote for each individual candidate in legislative seats 10, 11 and 13. Election Day is Sat., June 27, 2015 at the Family Reunion Festival in Shawnee, Okla.

This year's only competitive race comes in District 13. Incumbent Bobbi Bowden of Choctaw, Okla. has drawn a challenge from Whitebead, Okla.'s Samuel Navarre. A final voter's guide with Bowden and



Bobbi Bowden.



Sam Navarre.

Navarre will appear in the May 2015 *Hownikan*.

In District 10, incumbent David Joe Barrett will retain his seat due to no challengers filing to run against the Bethel Acres, Okla. native. Barrett is a member of the CPN Veterans Organization and a former member of the CPN Grievance Committee prior to the Tribal constitutional change.

Lisa Kraft, representing District 11, is another incumbent who will retain her legislative seat unopposed.

Kraft said in her December 2014 *Hownikan* column that she would focus on issues related to Tribal self-governance, development of tribal lands and expansion of health coverage.

Chairman – John Barrett



Bozho Nikan,

The New Year is flying by, a normal feeling around CPN as we head toward the June 26-28 Family Reunion Festival here in Shawnee. As in past years, we invite all Citizen Potawatomi and family from across the world to return to their home in Oklahoma and gather for this celebration of our familial and Tribal ties.

Each year you will see something new and exciting, so don't fail to come to Festival because you have "been there, done that." Besides the improvements in services and benefits, CPN continues to make progress in

infrastructure and business in our community. Some of the newest updates include businesses within walking distance of the powwow grounds.

In the past year we have opened two new eateries attached to the building that houses FireLake Discount Foods. My favorite, FireLake Frybread Taco, offers various types of this American Indian delicacy using recipes from our own CPN members. Beef and buffalo, pinto or black beans, 3 cheeses, lettuce, tomato, onions, super-hot and fresh! Right next door is FireLake Pizzeria. This updated version of an Italian eatery will remind people of a Subway more than a pizza place. Customers can build their own personal-sized pizza using the fresh ingredients they choose.

Both are great new concepts and I would highly recommend it for those who may want a bit of variety from the normal Festival foods. If you live within driving distance, come today, you'll love it.



The new FireLake Golf Course Clubhouse will open, tentatively, in November.



Vice-Chairman – Linda Capps

ate of the water left behind on the sink counters. Water that drips to the floor near the sinks and towel dispensers contributes to the restroom woes. Housekeeping attendants are needed to monitor and deal with the continual cleanup process.

The concession stands also command extensive attention during large crowds. The concession areas definitely demand quick, experienced people behind the counter to keep the lines streaming at an acceptable pace. Hot dogs, nachos, pizza, pickles, popcorn and candy are distributed in a mad rush. Water, soft drinks, coffee and beer are served rapidly to eager customers. The concession stand employees

"Kudos" goes out to CPN Tribal member Tracy Peltier and his staff for a great job in preparing FireLake Arena for upcoming events. To date, the arena has hosted few spectators compared to events on the horizon. The arena has seating for up to five thousand spectators. A fairly large group of approximately two thousand people attended the Mixed Martial Arts, or MMA, competition on Sat., March 7, 2015. Two weeks prior to that, there was a boxing match with a few hundred less viewers. Both of the events were great practice to prepare our arena staff for attendance of four to five thousand in the weeks and months to come.

Tracy can readily tell you that even hosting two thousand spectators is more than "meets the eye" in regard to preparation. Accommodation for a couple of thousand people using the restroom facilities is a challenge in itself. The paper towels stack up quickly as people hurriedly wash their hands to return to the event. Few are consider-



Tracy Peltier.



The foundations are laid for the new FireLake Grocery Store in McLoud.

Out at the Grand Casino, the new Brazilian chiaroscuro, The Flame, is going "gangbusters." Great, great food and service. The new sushi restaurant is nearing completion as well.

In some other food-related news, progress moves forward on the new FireLake Grocery Store in McLoud. The expansion into McLoud of this new FireLake store makes very good sense. Right now, no major grocery stores serve these areas, forcing residents of towns like McLoud, Bethel Acres and Dale and the growing population around the Shawnee Twin Lakes to drive to Shawnee or Oklahoma City for their groceries. Just like in Tecumseh and our first location at Hardesty Road and S. Gordon Cooper Drive, this new store will serve the public and employ our Tribal members and neighbors in those areas.



New flooring will soon be placed in the Cultural Heritage Center.

Closer to home, a new floor for the flood damaged Citizen Potawatomi Nation Cultural Heritage Center will be placed in the coming weeks. It has been a struggle to essentially rebuild our Tribal museum from the inside out. The humidity trapped inside has thwarted previous attempts to dry out a solid floor foundation. We will not be able to replace the wood floor and will use beautiful porcelain that will complement the exhibits.

In other rebuilding news, FireLake Golf Course has a tentative date of November 2015 for the completion of the new clubhouse. It will feature full men's and women's locker rooms, a pro shop and a restaurant on the two story premises.

In all, it has been a progressive year at CPN, and I am very proud of the effort and professionalism of our employees. Our Tribal members, employees and many of our neighbors continue to work toward a brighter future. This is a story I hope to share with you all personally in June, and again encourage you to join us for the General Council Family Reunion Festival then.

Thank you for the privilege of serving as Tribal Chairman of this great Nation.

Migwetch!
John Rocky Barrett / Keweoage (He leads them home)



FireLake Arena.

work feverishly from the event opening until the last attraction.

Directly related to the concession is the clean-up. Cups, napkins, bottles, cans, and containers are scattered throughout the floor near the seating area of the arena.

The months of planning before an event are grueling. Every detail of that planning must fall in place the day of the event. It takes promoters, commissioners, security officers, lighting specialists, ticket cashiers, referees, doctors, judges, announcers and, of course, participants, to accommodate the boxing and MMA events. The list could go on for another paragraph. There even has to be an ambulance on the premises.

As the type of event changes,

the requirements and needs change as well. Gearing up to host up to five thousand attendees is a huge endeavor.

The prime focus of this article is to convey that FireLake Arena holds the potential of exciting events for years to come, but a lot of hard work and planning goes into each event. I am thankful that the Nation has Tracy Peltier as the director of the arena. He has put together a fine staff to meet the challenges of keeping it in the spotlight. He also has an excellent marketing manager in Tribal member Michelle O'Bright who is instrumental in securing first-rate attractions. It appears that in the spring, summer and fall of this year the scheduled events will bring spectators galore.

Michelle is in the process of

booking dates for entertainment bands like ZZ Top, Turnpike Troubadours, Steve Miller, Snoop Dog and more. These groups should come close to packing the house.

As your vice-chairman, I am proud to be part of such a magnificent venue as FireLake Arena. I look forward to the many shows, concerts, games, graduations, and other events that will come our way. What an exciting time for the Citizen Potawatomi Nation and the entire community!

Migwetch,
Linda Capps

405-275-3121 office

405-650-1238 cell

lcapps@potawatomi.org

Tribal Election Information



WHO CAN VOTE
CPN MEMBERS 18 OR OLDER ON ELECTION DAY CAN VOTE IN TRIBAL ELECTIONS.

WHAT IS ON THE BALLOT FOR THIS YEAR'S ELECTION?



DISTRICT 10, 11 AND 13 LEGISLATIVE RACES AND THE ANNUAL TRIBAL BUDGET.

HOW DO I REGISTER TO VOTE?



BALLOT REQUEST FORMS ARE MAILED OUT TO EACH ELIGIBLE VOTER AHEAD OF THE JUNE ELECTIONS. FILL OUT THE FORM AND RETURN IT BY THE VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE.

WHO CAN VOTE FOR DISTRICT 10, 11 AND 13 LEGISLATIVE CANDIDATES?



ALL CPN MEMBERS RESIDING IN OKLAHOMA CAN VOTE FOR EACH LEGISLATIVE CANDIDATE, AS OKLAHOMA'S LEGISLATORS ARE CHOSEN AT-LARGE.

HOW DO I KNOW WHO TO VOTE FOR?

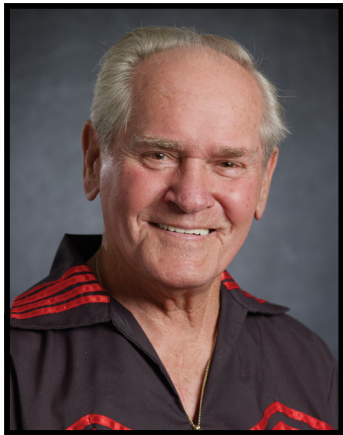


THE HOWNIKAN WILL FEATURE CANDIDATE INTERVIEWS. THIS IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN THE VIEWS OF POTENTIAL TRIBAL LEADERS.

WHEN DOES VOTING TAKE PLACE?



VOTING TAKES PLACE SAT., JUNE 27, 2015 AT FAMILY FESTIVAL. ABSENTEE BALLOTS CAN BE CAST PRIOR TO ELECTION DAY.



District 1 – Roy Slavin

Bozho nikanek,

The first thing on my agenda today is to let everyone know that I am co-hosting a district meeting with District 4, Jon Boursaw on May 2 at the Native American Indian Center of The Great Plains. The address is 1111 W. 39th St. Kansas City, Mo.

I have wrote of the Native American Center in previous articles, I hope to see everyone there and introduce you to John Learned, the CEO of the center and perhaps even get a tour of his facility.

I have just received the Febru-

ary issue of the *Hownikan*. I am so happy and excited to see the Healthy Heart Program article. This is an issue that is near and dear to my heart, damaged as it is. Cardiovascular disease is one of the top causes of death of people in the United States. People with diabetes are at even greater risk of developing some type of cardiovascular disease in their life time.

As a type 2 diabetic, a survivor of quadruple bypass surgery in 1994 and more recently of an implantation of a pacemaker defibrillator, I cannot stress enough the importance of eating right and exercising regularly. I have mentioned in previous articles about the prevalence of type 2 diabetes among Native Americans.

Under ideal circumstances Native Americans with diabetes will have their disease under good control and be monitored frequently by a health care provider. Patient education is critical, people with diabetes can

reduce their risk of complications if they are educated about their disease, learn and practice the skills necessary to control it and have regular check ups from their health care provider. I personally believe walking is the best exercise, and aside from the medicine your doctor prescribes, it is the very best thing you can do to control your diabetes.

It's free too, so you don't have to belong to a gym or buy special equipment and it benefits your entire body and mind. So take it from one who has been there, done that and has the t-shirt to prove it.

Get moving! This is good for you even if you don't have diabetes.

Everything I read tells me 30 minutes a day of brisk walking will be of great benefit. Thirty minutes walking at a pace of 3 mph is sufficient to keep the pounds off and help control your diabetes. All of you

ex-military people who did 5 mph with a full field pack know that 3 mph is doable, so again, get moving!

And let me add, way to go Pat Brollier!

I will close this article as always with a plea for your contact information. Due to privacy issues the Nation cannot provide me with that information so if you have never received email or snail mail it is because I do

not have your contact information. I can be reached at the numbers below.

Migwetch,
Roy Slavin/*Netagtege*
(Always Planting)
P.O. Box 901873
Kansas City, MO 64190

Toll free: 888-741-5767

RSlavin@potawatomi.org



JOIN US!

You are invited to a Joint District 1 and District 4 Potawatomi Gathering

SATURDAY, MAY 2, 2015

10 AM - 3 PM

AMERICAN INDIAN CENTER OF THE GREAT PLAINS

1111 W. 39TH STREET, KANSAS CITY, MO. 64111

RSVP to Roy Slavin at 1-888-741-5767 or rsllavin@potawatomi.org or Jon Boursaw at 785-861-7272 or jon.boursaw@potawatomi.org no later than April 24, 2015.



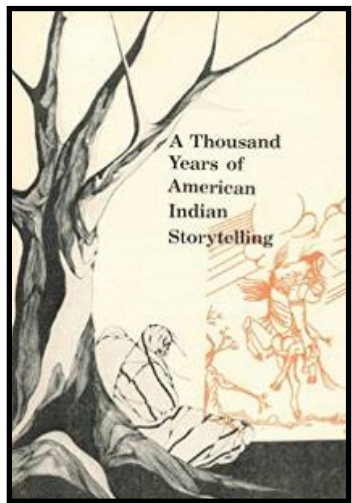
District 2 – Eva Marie Carney

premium canvas print; second prize is a book of Native stories; and third prize is a book about Potawatomi artist Woody Crumbo. Photos of the covers of the prize books are reprinted here (a photo showing the George Winter print was in the February column). Prize winners will be drawn at random and the prizes will be mailed to the winners.

Quarterly Legislative meeting. The Legislature met on Feb. 26, 2015. Among the items we passed were resolutions authorizing and supporting grant applications for:

1. U.S. Department of Justice funding that we would use to further develop a deferred sentencing program diverting offenders with substance abuse problems from the standard court system to a "Healing to Wellness Court" that focuses on rehabilitative treatment.

2. Funding from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services' Administration for Children and Families that would support our Nation's efforts to provide immediate shelter and related assistance to victims of family violence and our expanded efforts to prevent family violence (e.g., the funds could be used to pay a public defender's salary, in satisfaction of the Violence Against Women Act's requirement that, in order to exercise our authority to prosecute and impose prison terms on non-Indian offenders for certain domestic violence and protection order



crimes, we must provide, at our expense, legal representation to indigent defendants).

Our Office of Self-Governance does an excellent job of identifying funding opportunities like these that match our Nation's values and goals.

Visiting opportunities.

Details on the upcoming District 2 meetings in Miami and Atlanta are in the postcard invitations reprinted in this column. Thank you to David Walter (Fla.) and Tracie Adams (Ga.) for their help with the local arrangements. I am accepting RSVPs as you have them – please call or email me with the names of all attending. I am really looking forward to seeing old friends and new faces at these meetings. Children are welcome. Please bring your family stories, including genealogy charts and photos. You may leave the meeting having met a close relative you didn't know you had!

Community: When planning meetings around our district I know that many of you will not have the opportunity to travel to them. If you have questions, comments, or ideas to share please do so through email, phone, or letter. Building our CPN community in District 2 continues to be my top priority. I periodically update my website with photos, news and other items of interest so please visit it from time to time. Please also consider joining our District 2 Facebook page, if you are

a user of Facebook (contact me for details on joining).

Kind regards and *bama pi*,
Eva Marie Carney/*Ojindiskwe*
(Bluebirdwoman)

Legislator, District #2
The Portrait Building, Suite 340
701 8th Street, NW,
Washington, DC 20001

Toll Free: 866-961-6988
Ecarney@potawatomi.org
evamariacarney.com

Citizen Potawatomi and family members are invited

Come share Potawatomi cultural traditions, family stories and a good lunch. CPN District 2 Legislator Eva Marie Carney will provide an update on Tribal business.

APRIL 25TH • 11AM TO 2PM

Florida International University College of Law
Rafael Diaz Balart Hall, Room 2055, Moot Courtroom
11200 S.W. 8th St., Miami, FL 33199

RSVP to ecarney@potawatomi.org or leave a message with your contact details and names of attendees on the District 2 CPN voicemail number; toll free 1 (866) 961-6988.

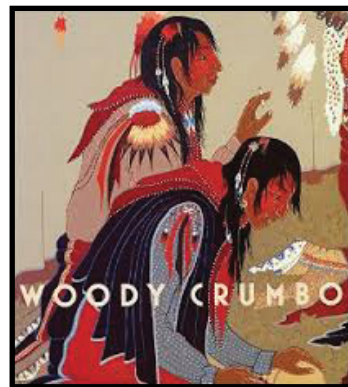
Citizen Potawatomi and family members are invited

Come share Potawatomi cultural traditions, family stories and a good lunch. CPN District 2 Legislator Eva Marie Carney will provide an update on Tribal business.

JUNE 6TH • 11AM TO 2PM

Ippolito's Neighborhood Italian Restaurant
5277 Peachtree Parkway
Norcross, GA 30092
(770) 663-0050

RSVP to ecarney@potawatomi.org or leave a message with your contact details and names of attendees on the District 2 CPN voicemail number; toll free 1 (866) 961-6988.



Get the *Hownikan* via email!

If you would like your newspaper via email, please email your name and address to hownikan@potawatomi.org and let us know.

LEGISLATORS ARE NOT ABLE TO RETRIEVE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION FROM TRIBAL ROLLS. Please contact your legislator so that you can receive important information.



District 3 – Bob Whistler

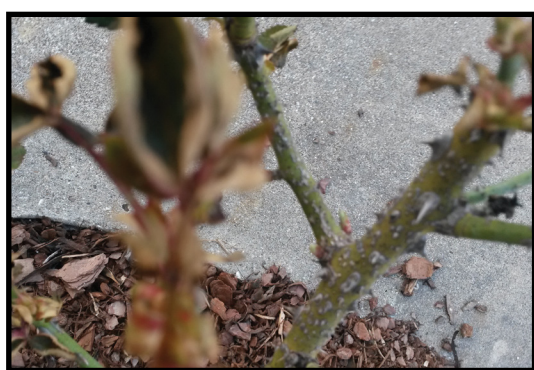
for the Texas heat is the knock-out variety. So for the last ten plus years, we have enjoyed the annual new growth, blooms and wonderful fragrances from the various roses that we either had when we moved in or added to our landscape. Along with the fresh sweet aroma, they make a nice addition when cut, brought inside and displayed in a vase.

This year, I looked at what I thought was just new rose growth initially. The stems on the tea roses that were coming out first were covered almost completely with thorns. After a couple of weeks, although there were nice red new shoots, the leaves on some stems were shriveling up like a bivalve clam. Initially, my thought was that adding some fertilizer might get them back on track. This was to no avail. I am attaching a photo I took of the leaves of one plant, so you can see if you have any roses displaying the same symptoms of leaves all shriveled up.

Fortunately, my wife is a member of the National Garden Club and has several friends that are either master gardeners, or their spouse is a master gardener. So

she asked them if they had any idea on what was happening to the roses this year. The news is not good!

In the last year or so, a new rose hybrid was introduced into the rose community, and it was infected by a mite that carries a fungus, the Rose Rosette Disease. Once it hits, there is no saving the plant. The mite, after infecting one plant with the fungus moves on to another and then another. At this time there is no product known that will eliminate this fungus. After it kills the bush(es) the fungus strain remains in the dead bush, and also in the immediate soil, where it lies dormant, but ready to attack any new bushes planted.



An infected rose bush.

The only way to stop the spread of this mite and the fungus is to completely dig up the entire bush, roots and all. Place them inside a plastic bag and dispose of them. Although you have rid yourself of the mite and the infected bush, the soil is still tainted and unsuitable for planting new rose bushes. At this point, you might consider finding another plant for the area that is not susceptible to invasion by the mite. This fungus only attacks roses and no other plant is in jeopardy of the disease.

If you have dealt with this situation with your roses, and you see that a neighbor is having the same issue, I suggest you convince them to take the same action. Their failure to do so only perpetuates the ruination and loss of other rose bushes.

Hopefully, a cure will be found and roses being grown in other areas of the country will be unaffected. In time, new roses will be available for you in the future to bring that beauty and fragrance back into your life, yard and home.

Before closing for this month, let me again tell you how proud and honored I am to have been elected to represent District 3. In another couple of months, we will be attending Family Festival and I look forward to seeing many of you there. In the meantime, if you are not able to attend Family Festival, please fill out and return your ballot request and then submit your vote authorizing next year's budgeted funds.

Bama pi,
Bob Whistler/*Bmashi* (He soars)

Citizen Potawatomi Nation
112 Bedford Road
Bedford, TX 76022

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Home: 817-545-1507
Cell: 817-229-6271

RWhistler@potawatomi.org
CPN3Legislator@yahoo.com



District 4 – Jon Boursaw

District 1 and 4 joint meeting, Sat. May 2:

Just a reminder for CPN members in the greater Kansas City area and the eastern portion of Kansas that I will be co-hosting a joint district meeting with Roy Slavin, Representative for District 1 on Sat., May 2 at 10 a.m. The meeting will be held at the American Indian Center of the Great Plains in the Loretto lo-

cated at 1111 West 39th St, Kansas City, MO.

Vice-Chairman Linda Capps plans to attend. Don't forget, we want to hear the history of your Tribal family. Please RSVP by April 24, if you plan on attending. See the March *Hownikan* for information regarding parking at the Loretto.

Attention CPN members ages 18-20:

Applications are now being accepted for this summer's session of the Potawatomi Leadership Program, also known as the PLP. I understand there is an article regarding the PLP program in this issue of the *Hownikan*. By now you should have received a flyer in the mail regarding this program. Additional information is available at plp.potawatomi.org. The PLP program is an excellent way to learn about the Nation, its culture and history, how CPN government

works, and how the various programs and services within the Tribe operate and serve our members. If you currently are not yet eligible the PLP program is something you should definitely consider in the future when you do become eligible.

Recognition of 2015 graduates:

Do you have a son, daughter, or grandchild graduating this year? We want to recognize Potawatomi graduates from high school, college or vo-tech programs in 2015. If they graduated in winter 2014, we'd be happy to include them as well. Here is what you need to do to have them recognized in the *Hownikan*: Email the following information to: graduation@potawatomi.org.

- Name
- Hometown City/State
- Potawatomi Family Name
- School or institution
- Degree/Honors

Honored to serve you:

It is an honor to serve you as your district representative. Thank you to those members who have shared their thoughts and opinions on the issues of the Nation. I appreciate hearing from CPN members in Kansas, whether in the form of a letter, email or a phone call. Please let me know how I can be of assistance. You can contact me by email, phone or stop by the office. My contact information is listed below.

Migwetch,
Jon Boursaw, *Wetase Mkoh*

CPN District 4 Legislative Representative

2007 SW Gage Blvd
Topeka, KS 66604

jon.boursaw@potawatomi.org

Cell: 785-608-1982
Office: 785-861-7272



District 5 – Gene Lambert

It usually comes at the end of a ceremony.

- Why do you do what you do in a ceremony?
- Why do we acknowledge each direction and color and the plants that represent them?
- Why do we have family gatherings each year and why must the traditions be acknowledged?
- Why should we continue when so many of us do not live on our land in Okla.?

These are questions I am asked regularly, as so many of us live in the "white man's" world and make our living so differently than did our forefathers.

We gather each year to acknowl-

edge those who have walked before...for those who carry tradition on and for those who will walk proudly as a Native American after we "walk on."

Each generation can learn from another. How can we go forward successfully if we are not aware of the history of our people, the Keepers of the Fire?

I had the opportunity to attend a public showing of the Native American history here in Arizona, in the Theater in the Round. During the performance, I was exhilarated to see color, warmth and a well thought-out story for the public to see how we have progressed as a people.

The fire dancer appeared on stage in all his spender and grace. The drums boldly kept rhythm with every move he made. Suddenly, a young woman about 15 years old entered the stage, dancing to hip-hop in coveralls you might think a farmer of the past would wear.

I watched, both confused and shocked at her entrance and wondered "what the heck is this?" As I continued to watch, I realized her movements were the same as the fire dancer's.

Still in a buzz, it finally dawned on me that we have come full circle! Her movements were the same yet her attire was com-

pletely different.

No one from the stage or the audience spoke. It was just left at that. No one was trying to force a thought or prove anything.

Gene Lambert
(Eunice Imogene Lambert)

District 5 Representative

8830 E Germann Road
Bldg 27, Suite 8
Mesa, AZ 85212

Office: 480-668-0509
Cell: 480-228-6569

Website: citizenpotawatominationdistrict05.com



Ahau Jayek,

Mother’s Day 2015 is coming up on Sun., May 10. In our Potawatomi culture we are taught to respect and value the wisdom of our elders. I can think of no elder for whom I have greater respect than my mother Betty Josephine Lane Payne. My siblings and I affectionately refer to her as “Ma.”

Ma was born at my great-grandma and grandpa Tescier’s house at the corner of Triple X

District 6 – Rande K. Payne

Road and Highway 62 near Choctaw, Okla. during the great flood of 1923. My grandparents’ river bottom farm was mostly under water, hence the need to move to higher ground for Ma’s arrival. Ma occasionally told the story of how her older brother Elton teased her about floating down the North Canadian on a frog’s back during the flood and that’s how she became part of the family.

Most of anything good I have in me I inherited from Ma. She was the most loving, forgiving, non-judgmental person I have ever known. She always put the needs of her family at the top of her priority list. While in my foolish younger years I didn’t see it let alone appreciate it, and that was okay with Ma. Somehow she must have known that it would come in time or maybe it was just part of her unconditional love for her children.



Betty Joe Lane Payne with her granddaughters Melissa Sandoval (left) and Rochelle Crisp (right).

Ma walked on in 2009. A lot has happened since then. There are so many things that I would like to have shared with her. But the thing that would have meant the most to her would have been meeting her great-grandchild-

dren. I’m sorry that my grandchildren won’t get to meet her but I look forward to when they are old enough for me to tell them about her. I want them to know who she was and what she was like and how much I love her and miss her.

Is your mother the most important elder in your life? If so, let her know. Give her a call or go see her if she’s still alive. From time to time a thought will come to mind and I will reach for the phone to call Ma and then I realize I can’t. There are so many things I would like to talk to her about if only I could.

Mother’s Day is one day out of the 365 that we set aside to celebrate our Mothers. Somehow that just doesn’t quite seem adequate. I think every day should be Mother’s Day!

Igwien Creator for the mother you gave me. Happy Mother’s

Day Ma!

Migwetch for allowing me to share my view of the importance of respecting and appreciating our elders. And thank you for allowing me to serve as your representative!

“She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue. She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness.” Proverbs 31: 26-27

Migwetch!
Rande K. Payne/*Mnedo Gabo*

District #6 Legislator
Citizen Potawatomi Nation
31150 Road 180
Visalia, CA 93292-9585

Office: (559) 999-3525
Cell: (559) 999-5411

Rande.Payne@Potawatomi.org



Bozho nikanek,

As you might guess due to my firefighting occupation, I’ve witnessed many tragedies over the years. Please take a minute to consider the following, and please, *please* make sure your home has a working smoke alarm and that you regularly change the batteries.

Nationwide, more than 2,500 people die each year and almost 14,000 people are injured in fires. In the event of a fire, time is of the essence – every second counts! Once a fire starts in a home, there is no time to plan on how to get out. You may have only 1-2 minutes to get out safely. Now is the time to sit down with your family and make a

District 7 – Mark Johnson

step-by-step plan for escaping a fire in your home. Don’t just plan it; practice it twice a year with everyone in your home at night and during the daytime.

Did you know that while 71 percent have an escape plan in case of a fire, only 47 percent have practiced it? Those statistics are staggering as almost 80 percent of fires start in the home.

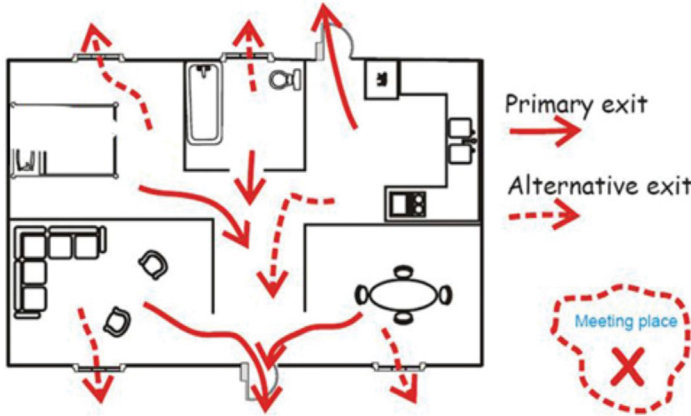
Practice your plan and have working smoke alarms!

- Draw a map of each level of the home. Show two ways out of every room.
- Have an outside meeting place like a mailbox or light pole on the same side of the street as your home.
- Make sure windows are not stuck, screens can be taken out quickly, and security bars can be opened easily.
- Practice your plan to make sure that children and adults react to the smoke alarm and know what to do.
- Children, elders, and people with disabilities may need assistance to wake up and get out. Make sure that someone helps them.

- Install smoke alarms inside every sleeping area, in hallways outside of sleeping areas and on every level of your home. Test your smoke alarm once a month.

Crawl low and go; once you are out stay out!

- Smoke and heat rise, cleaner air is closer to the floor.
- Crawl on hands and knees, keeping your head 12-24 inches above the floor.
- Before opening a door, feel the doorknob and then the door. If either is hot, leave the door closed and use your second way out.



If you are trapped, shelter in place

- If you can’t get out, stay in the room with the door closed.
- Stuff cracks around the doors to keep smoke out.
- Wait at the window and signal for help with a light-colored cloth or a flashlight.
- If there is a telephone in the room, call 9-1-1 and report your location

Once again I would like to say what an honor and privilege it is to serve you as your District 7 representative. As always give me a call and I will be happy to work with you on any questions you may have, or provide you with additional information you may need to access tribal benefits that you are entitled to.

Migwetch,
Mark Johnson/*Wisk Mtek*
(Strong as a Tree)

1565 Shaw Ave., Suite 202
Clovis, CA 93611

Cell: 559-351-0078

Mark.Johnson@Potawatomi.org

www.markjohnsoncpn.com



District 8 – Dave Carney

Bozho Nikan,

You could almost feel guilty enjoying a mild and sunny March with stories of many parts of the country suffering from snow and ice in the news. On the other hand, the Pacific Northwest is known for its endless rain and I’ve experienced many a winter with 100 straight days of rain, so I guess I won’t feel too bad. The weather has been mild for the western portion of District 8, but I am looking forward to the summer and connecting with fellow Potawatomi.

Please plan to come to the annu-

al Family Festival if it is at all possible. As you know, it is always the last weekend of June and is a great time for us to get together as a Nation. Every year there are a small group of families that are especially honored and celebrated. For 2015, the founding families are:

- Acton
- Bergeron
- Curley
- Delonais
- Greemore
- Levier
- Negahnquet
- Pambogo

These families will be given

special space marked by family banners to congregate in the round house to visit. They are allotted special times to be interviewed for posterity at the Cultural Heritage Center and they are honored in the dance circle on Saturday night.

I am planning a meeting in the Anchorage area, August 15, the venue and specifics to come, but please save the date if you live in the area or will be traveling in Alaska this summer.

It was my hope to have a craft-centered event this spring in Olympia. I am looking for a

CPN member who would be willing to teach a craft to a group of members. Please contact me at the email below if you are interested and willing to share your talents.

Thank you for the honor of representing you. Please feel free to contact me – it’s always great hearing from you.

Dave Carney/*Kagashi* (Raven)

Office: 360-259-4027

DCarney@potawatomi.org

www.dave-carney.com



Bozho,

When was the last time you wrote in cursive? Was it a thank you note or a check? The fact is, you may know how to loop and swirl with the best of them, but do your kids or neighbor’s kids know as well?

Across the country, many school districts dropped cursive from their curricula years ago. The Common Core State Standards now being implemented

District 10 – David Barrett

in most states never mention the word cursive. Imagine a world without handwriting? It’s not as farfetched as it sounds.

I’ve noticed that preparing my columns in longhand that my writing has become worse, either due to laziness or arthritis. It is so easy to jot a thought down on a piece of paper that only you can translate before you enter it on the computer and allow it to quickly spell and grammar check it and correct your mistakes. This is a good tool, but are we going to be able to continue a daily communication with our fellow man? Will we need to have a cell phone in our hand and say, “just a moment let me check my grammar,” while still talking?

In the 21st century, teaching cursive writing is increasingly an exception rather than the rule. With computers emerging

as the primary source of writing, many administrators feel teaching cursive writing is not necessary and believe the time would be better spent teaching keyboard skills.

Cursive reinforces learning though. When students are taught the English language in only one form, such as print writing, they get only one chance to learn and memorize the letters. By having to learn cursive as well, students get another opportunity to fully comprehend the alphabet. In writing down something over and over, you memorize and maintain it longer. Cursive reinforces the mantra that learning should simply be for learning - not just to pass a test.

Cursive also helps students with disabilities, specifically dyslexia, can have a very hard time with writing in print because

many of the letters look similar, particularly b and d.

Cursive writing offers letters that have a distinct look. This gives dyslexic students an option that can help mitigate dyslexic tendencies and give them confidence in their abilities.

Many school districts are cutting art from their budgets too. However, writing can be considered an art form all its own. It is one more way for students to develop the side of the brain that is not typically stimulated by basic reading and printing skills.

Memory retention by learning things can not be overlooked in this technological age of just tapping a key on the computer to find the answers. We need to use proven methods of solving problems by deductive reasoning coupled with facts, wherev-

er you obtain them.

So, should cursive be taught in schools?

I’m not an authority on this subject but only expressing my humble views. Printing and signing is still required to receive and procure different documents to be legal.

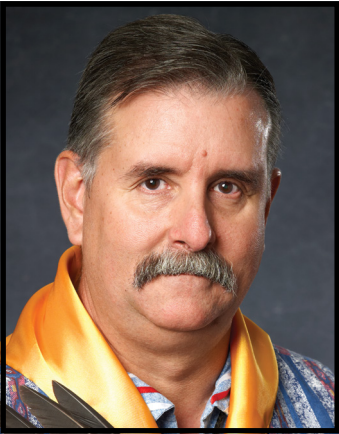
It goes without saying that it is an honor to serve you and our great Nation.

Migwetch,
David Barrett/*Mnedobe*
(Sits with the Spirit)

1601 S. Gordon Cooper Dr.
Shawnee, OK 74801

405-275-3121

DBarrett@potawatomi.org



District 12 – Paul Schmidtkofer

Bozho nikanek,

By the time this is delivered hopefully we will be into spring. This winter seemed to want to hang on as long as it could. Winter always gives me pause. I think back to the hardships our ancestors must have endured coming here.

For us living in Oklahoma, we understand this. I recently spent some time with a friend who lives in northern Colorado. He was in town during one of our cold spells. He commented on how much more our cold here affected him than up in the northern range where he lives. Well I’m not going to start a comparison of temperature they have there with here, but he’s observation was that with the

wind we have here it is more of a cutting cold than the lower temperatures he has on a daily basis. I believe he may have hit the nail on the head.

Anyway, back to my original thought, I find it hard to spend much time outside anymore during our cold spells here and can only appreciate the troubles found when our Nation first arrived here. Hopefully we can all remember this and then accept the challenges we face in a better light.

It is in our genes to overcome. If a person was to spend any time at all researching out history they will see we have been knocked down before. Each time we picked ourselves up and move forward. We are fac-

ing some tests today. I believe our current path is the best direction for us to follow. Our leadership along with the legislators are making plans and strategies for the possible outcomes of these situations. Our hope is that our neighbors stop and recognize our value. As had been said many time by the chairman, “a rising tide raises all ships.”

There is really no reason for the wedge being driven in between today.

A couple quick reminders. One, the Family Festival will be here before you know it. Please start making your plans now to attend. Those that have been to one understand the significance and those who haven’t need to

find time to attend.

Second I just want to remind our soon to be graduates from high school to start the process of getting their scholarships from the Tribe. Cost of college is only going up and this may be the extra money that helps you attain your career path.

Bama pi,

Paul Schmidtkofer

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District 13 – Bobbi Bowden

much more. Sewing machines are provided just bring your own fabric. We are also lucky enough to have some incredibly talented Tribal members that make regalia. If you are interested in having regalia made or adding a new piece to your existing regalia please contact the Cultural Heritage Center and they will point you in the right direction.

To honor tradition and show respect, regalia is necessary to be a part of Grand Entry during Festival. We want to follow tradition as close as possible and are blessed to have some very knowledgeable people to help us prepare our regalia so we may honor the traditions passed along to us. Being a part of Grand Entry with my children beside me is something that no words can express.

Along with all of the fun and traditional festivities it will also be time for Tribal elections. This year three of the Oklahoma legislative offices in will be on the ballot. This includes my position.

I ask for your vote to continue to serve you, the people of our Nation for another four years. If I am blessed enough to be elected to serve another term I will continue to work with our Tribal leaders to make the best decisions for the future of our Tribe as well as pass along any and all information possible regarding traditions and member benefits to the Tribal members.

If you are not able to attend Festival and vote in person, you may also vote by absentee ballot. The absentee ballot is great way to get more people involved in the voting process. Please watch for your ballot request form in your mail. All Tribal members 18 years of age or older living in Oklahoma are eligible to vote for the legislative positions on the ballot this year as well as the annual Tribal budget, which can be voted on by all eligible CPN voters nationwide. Voter participation is vital to our elections. If you have any questions, or you do not receive the ballot request



Bobbi Bowden and her daughter Alex at the 2013 Grand Entry Ceremony.

form please contact the election committee at 405-275-3121 or 800-880-9880. You can also email them at elections@potawatomi.org.

As always thank you for the opportunity to serve you as one of your legislative representatives.

Migwetch,
Bobbi Bowden / *Peshknokwe*

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Deborah “Debby” Bess Gabriel

Deborah “Debby” Bess Gabriel, passed away of natural causes in her home Jan. 22, 2015. She is survived by her brother Dan and his wife Leslee Anne Bess.

Deborah was born on Sept. 14, 1952, to the late Thomas and Dian Bess in Santa Monica, Calif. In 1963, at the age of 12, Deborah and her family moved to Jackson Hole, Wyo. after her father purchased a guest ranch 17 miles south of Jackson on the Hoback River. They named it “The Spotted Horse Ranch.” Her family owned and operated the ranch for 40 years, although they sold the ranch in 1999, to this day it is still operating with the same name and dream.

Debby graduated in 1970 at the age of 17, from Jackson Hole High. She then moved to Redlands, Calif. where she attended college to pursue her passion in Theatrical Arts. When she returned from college she started acting at “Dirty Jacks,” “Jackson Hole Play House” and the “Pink Garter Theater.” She was also an incredible prop and costume designer and would help designing the sets for the plays. Debby loved to be on stage and was one of the founders of the Actor’s Co-op in Jackson Hole.

Throughout the years, she obtained her real estate license, sold advertising and media for the local television station and owned her own shoe store called “Steppin Out Shoes.”

She loved to travel and enjoyed discovering new places. She traveled throughout Europe and the U.S. and was planning to travel more in the years to come.

Like her mother, Debby had a passion for gardening, flowers, and animals and kept her yard looking beautiful and well maintained.

Debby had a saying. At the end of every conversation, she would say, “Miss You Madly.”

She will be missed.

A memorial service will be planned for the spring of 2015.

Henry “Hank” Hernandez

Henry “Hank” Hernandez, 88, of Vancouver, Wash., passed away Feb. 12, 2015. He was born in Horton, Kan. to Ruth and Percy Hernandez.

Hank joined the Navy during WWII and served until the end of the war.

He attended Clark College and worked for ITT Baking Co., making Wonder Bread from 1951-1984, when he retired.

Henry is survived by his daughters, Gina and Paula; son-in-law, Tim; sisters, Lucy and Florence; brother, Paul; grandchildren, Patrick, Kaitlyn, Matt, Nathan, and Ryan; great-grandchildren, Ethan and Madelyn; numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his sons, Greg and Patrick.

A was held at Willamette National Cemetery in Portland, Ore. on Feb. 27, 2015.

GayDean (Macon) Millstid

GayDean (Macon) Millstid was born on February 18, 1933 in Plains, Kan. and passed from this life to eternity on Jan. 19, 2015 from the Hospice Center in Wichita Falls, Tex. at the age of 81 years. Funeral services were held Jan. 22, 2015 at Life Tabernacle in Wichita Falls.

GayDean became a pastor’s wife at the young age of 17. She loved the work of God, people, and gave selflessly to the cause of Christ. After retirement from ministry she sought diligently to fulfill God’s purpose even in her golden years. She made her home in Iowa Park for the past 15 years... and after her Home Going Celebration, she was laid to rest Jan. 23, 2015, in Carlisle Community Cemetery beside her husband to await the sound of the trumpet.

She is preceded in death by her husband Burl H. Millstid on Oct. 11, 2013, her parents, Eugene and Violet (Wiggin) Macon; brothers, Johnny and Wesley Macon; and two sons, Jerry Lynn and Douglas LaJaun Millstid.

Survivors include her son, Burl Millstid and his wife, Judy of Ft. Worth, Tex.; son, Donnie and his wife, Vicki Millstid of Trinity, Tex.; daughter, Gayla Hardin and her husband, Greg of Comanche, Tex.; daughter, Judy Davis of Wichita Falls; four brothers, Bob Macon of Sweeny, Tex., JT Macon and his wife, Ardell of West Columbia, Tex.; Ted Macon and Leta Snitherlin of Surfside, Tex.; and Larry Macon of Montana; three sisters, Etta Perry and her husband, Billy of Conroe, Tex., Lillian Fields and her husband, Eugene of Poolville, Tex.; Dollie Warren and her husband, Clayton of Baltimore, Ohio; 15 grandchildren; 20 great

grandchildren; 2 great-great grandchildren; numerous nephews, nieces, and cousins; and many, many friends.

Memorials may be made to New Life Pentecostals, PO Box 130, Comanche, Texas 76442.

Karen Lynne Morris

Karen Lynne Morris, 43, of Hanford, Calif., passed away peacefully on Jan. 16, 2015, after a courageous yearlong battle with cancer.

Karen was born on Dec. 9, 1971 to Don and Charlene (Kennedy) Roselius. In 1990, she graduated from Hanford High School. At the age of 15, she met her soulmate and life partner, Keith Morris. After being together for ten years, they married on May 23, 1998.

Karen was a lifetime resident of Hanford. For the past 15 years, she worked at the law firm of Griswold, LaSalle, Cobb, Dowd and Gin, LLP. After losing several loved ones to cancer, she became very passionate about finding a cure. For the past seven years, she became greatly involved with Relay for Life, devoting time towards raising money and awareness.

Karen will be remembered as a joyous, carefree soul. She had the best spirit. There are few who loved life the way she did. She looked for the best qualities in everyone. Those who knew Karen will miss her beautiful warm smile and outgoing personality. The love she had for her fur babies, family and friends was unconditional. She had a profound effect on people that made everyone realize that it isn’t what happens in life, it is how you respond to the situation. In true Karen fashion, she never gave up and fought until the very end. Never losing hope, she kept her amazing smile and faced each day with a positive attitude.

Karen is survived by her husband, Keith Morris; son, Devon Morris and fiancé, Megumi Tamura; father, Don Roselius; sisters, Katie Askins and husband, Kevin and their four children, Marissa, Justin, Brendan and Tyler; Rebecca Roselius and her two children, Brianne and Christopher; Mary Roselius and fiancé, Corey Hagan and their son Liam and expected

second child; and Renee Johnson and her two children, Gavin and Kaia, and many more cousins, nieces and nephews whom she adored.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Charlene Roselius; maternal grandparents, Jack and Geraldine Kennedy; and paternal grandparents, John “Dub” and Opal Roselius.

Visitation was Jan. 26 at People’s Funeral Home in Hanford. Funeral services were Jan. 27 at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hanford with burial at the Grangeville Cemetery in Armona, Calif.

Arlis Louis Yott

Arlis Louis Yott, age 74 and a resident of Vamoosa, Okla. passed away on Feb. 5, 2015 at his home.

Funeral services took place Feb. 9, 2015 at Vamoosa Baptist Church with Rev. Kevin Duck and Rev. Bruce Sanders officiating. Burial will followed at Vamoosa Cemetery. Pallbearers were Russell Yott, Jason Yott, Taylor Yott, Matt Dean, Eric Holloway, and Gage Bean.

Arlis was born April 15, 1940 to George and Florence (Herriman) Yott at Asher, Okla. He married Ernestine Scroggin on August 19, 1961 at the Assembly of God Church in Konawa, Okla. He worked twenty-two years for OG&E before retiring in 1994.

He is survived by his wife of fifty-three years, Ernestine Yott of the home; four sons, Kenneth and Janet Yott of Konawa, Wayne and Cheryl Yott of Konawa, Wesley and Rebecca Yott of Asher, and Waylon and Michelle Yott of Konawa; two brothers, Darrell Yott of Asher, and Raymond Yott of Macomb, Okla.; three sisters, Georgie Tryon of Edmond, Okla., Lucy Glenn and Linda Craft, both of Shawnee, Okla.; ten grandchildren, Breanne Dean, Samantha Yott, Russell Yott, Jason Yott, Taylor Yott, Maci Yott, all of Konawa, Jerri Yott and Gabby Yott of Asher, Cassie Holloway and Trae Graham of Ada; and eight great grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, George and Florence Yott; one sister, Ruby Leabo; and three brothers, Marvin, David and Gene Yott.

CPN Burial Assistance through Tribal Rolls

The \$2,000 CPN Burial Assistance Fund is automatically available to all enrolled CPN members. You may fill out a burial assistance fund form if you would like for us to keep it on file in case of any change in resolutions.

Please note: Once a CPN Tribal member has passed, the Tribal Rolls office must be notified

in order for CPN to provide burial funding. Information and instructions for the burial process will be sent to the next of kin and will be discussed then.

For more information please call Kaleigh Coots at 405-878-5830 or email [Kaleigh.coots@potawatomi.org](mailto:kaleigh.coots@potawatomi.org).